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SUBJECT

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Inquiring Correspondence between witnesses and the Government

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Previous References

Later References

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DECLASSIFIED

(गौतम गुप्ता)  
(GAUTAM GUPTA)  
उप सचिव (ए एच आर डी)  
De Secretary (ASRM)  
भारत-विदेश सम्बन्ध विभाग  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi



(1)

24(37) SA/57

Ministry of External Affairs

Subject:- "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Inquiry  
Committee - Correspondence between  
the Committee and the witnesses"

The papers below have been received  
today from C+S Section. These may be  
recorded.

M. K. J. J.

19/11/58

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Carapre

19/11



Correspondence





SHAH NAWAZ KHAN, M.P.  
Chairman, Netaji Enquiry Committee.

~~TOP SECRET.~~  
D.O. No. PS/56/NEC  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
TO  
MINISTER FOR  
TRANSPORT & RAILWAYS  
INDIA

1, Canning Lane,  
New Delhi,  
Dated the 22nd June 1956.

Dear Shri Jain,

The Netaji enquiry Committee has some evidence on record to show that a plane - a two-engined Japanese Bomber - carrying Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose crashed at Taihoku in Formosa on the 18th of August 1945. Several eye-witnesses, and other Air-field staff, have given their versions of the accident, extracts from which are enclosed herewith. On enquiry, it has been ascertained that no investigation into the cause of the accident was carried out by the Japanese authorities at that time which was immediately after the surrender of Japan. It would be very helpful to the Committee if, on the basis of the available evidence we have gathered, some expert opinion is obtained as to the causes of the and whether in a plane crash of this nature, it is possible for passengers to survive. It is understood that your Directorate General deals with such matters. It would be very much appreciated if, on examination of the evidence, some opinion is made available to the Committee. I may add that the Committee is expected to submit its report to the Government very shortly.

Yours sincerely,

*I am astonished to see how this letter with all its enclosures, including extracts of some witnesses, sketches, & 3 photos were sent to Shri A. M. S. Sheshi without being shown to me. Some of them I see for the first time.*

*S. C. Jain*  
27.6.56.

Shri L.C. Jain, ICS,  
Director General of Civil Aviation,  
New Delhi.

(SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)

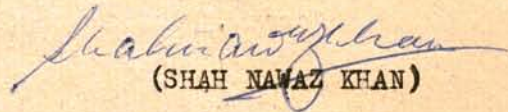
Encl:

II. Since some witnesses had suggested that they had



(2)

obtained evidence of air experts regarding the accident in which Netaji is alleged to have been involved, I thought that it would be a good thing to obtain the views of the experts on air accidents in the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of India. All the enclosures which were sent with this letter, barring the 3 photographs, were well known to all the members of the Committee. The statements of all the witnesses are in possession of all the members. All the sketches were seen by all the members of the Committee and initialled by me and yourself. The three photographs were received only a couple of days ago from the Ministry of Home Affairs. These photographs are contained in the Album - Freedom's Battle, which has been thoroughly by all members of the Committee.

  
(SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)



Summary.

From the statements tendered before the Committee by various witnesses, the following facts have emerged.

On 17th of August 1945, Netaji with 11 other passengers and members of the crew flew from Saigon in a twine-engined Army Bomber of the latest type. It was known as "Sally" type 97 bomber. *It has also been referred to as K2 Type* It belonged to the Japanese Air Division stationed in Singapore. It arrived at Saigon in the afternoon of 17th of August. It would appear that the plane was fully loaded at about 3 P.M. There were 10 Japanese on board, including one General Shidei who was proceeding to Dairen (Manchuria). At the last minute, the crew of the plane were informed that they would have to carry one additional passenger who was not a Japanese. Later, they were told that they would have to carry two additional passengers instead of one and the crew were told that the persons travelling were proceeding on a very important mission and had to go by that plane. Here it might be mentioned that the Japanese had officially surrendered to the Anglo-Americans on the 15th of August 1945. Towards the end of the war, their air-force was very badly mauled and all their aerodromes and maintenance centres had been heavily bombed. There was a scarcity of aeroplanes all round and the planes that were flying were taking a certain amount of risk. Although the Japanese had surrendered, no Occupation forces had arrived at Saigon by that time. In fact, it was approximately two weeks after the accident that the Occupation Forces reached Saigon. Netaji accompanied by Col. Rehman and other members of his staff, arrived at the aerodrome at Saigon at about 5 P.M. Other passengers had been waiting for him for about two hours. The engines of the plane were running when he arrived. On arrival, it was told to the Japanese that certain personal articles belonging to Netaji had not arrived for which they had to wait. The engines of the plane were accordingly switched off. After about half an hour, a car

Sur 27.6. *Am. N. Seabury* 27/6/56



carrying these articles arrived at the aerodrome. These articles were contained in two boxes. The approximate weight might have varied between 40 to 60 kilos. The plane took off normally from Saigon and arrived at Tourane after about two hours, where they spent the night. During the flight from Saigon to Tourane, the crew felt that the plane was over-loaded. They, therefore, took off all the machine-guns and ammunition and dumped them at Tourane. The maintenance of the plane was looked after by the members of the crew and other staff stationed at Tourane.

Next morning, the plane took off from Tourane at about 5-30 A.M. The next halt was to be at Taichu, an aerodrome situated in the southern part of Formosa. The take-off was quite normal and the flight from Tourane to Taichu was very smooth. The engines were running so well that it was decided not to land at Taichu but to proceed to Taihoku (Taipeh) situated in the northern part of Formosa. The weather was excellent and the engines were running very smoothly. They had plenty of gasoline. The plane landed at Taipeh at about 1 P.M. After landing, the plane taxied to a place near the main building of the aerodrome. This place is shown in one of the sketches attached to this note. The passengers alighted and went to have lunch in a tent which had been pitched nearby. The Ground Engineer in charge of Maintenance Unit at Taihoku (Taipeh) was told by General Shidei, one of the passengers, that they were in a hurry to leave Formosa and that they next stop would be at Dairen. All the petrol tanks were filled up with gasoline to the maximum capacity as the distance from Taihoku to Dairen was a long one. The engines of the plane were tested by Major Kono, a Ground Engineer Air-Force Officer, also travelling as a passenger on this plane, Major Takizawa, the Chief Pilot of the plane, and Capt. Nakamura, the Ground Engineer, in charge of Maintenance Unit

Ln 27.6

D. N. Sachin  
27/6/56



at Taihoku. While testing the engines and running at full speed, it was suspected by Major Kono and Captain Nakamura who were standing in front of the plane that the sound was not normal. Major Takizawa was seated inside the plane. He was signalled to slow down the engines and was told about the suspected <sup>defect</sup> difficulty in the engine. Some adjustments were made and engine was again tested by running it to full speed and slowing it down again in ~~the~~ normal fashion. It was found that there was nothing wrong with the plane. Here it might be mentioned that the occupation of Dairen by the Russian Forces was expected at any moment. After the occupation of Dairen, the Japanese plane would not be allowed to land there, or the passengers would have to face certain difficulties. They were, therefore, anxious to reach Dairen before its occupation by the Russian Forces.

After the plane had been fully inspected and refuelled, the passengers went on board and the plane taxied to one end of the runway and in the usual manner before starting the run, the engines were again tested. The plane ran down the full length of the runway and ~~took off after running along the ground for 3/4th of the length~~ <sup>its tail was lifted off the ground when it had travelled</sup> of the runway. It was normal for <sup>the tail of</sup> bombers of this type to leave the ground after running <sup>up</sup> ~~along the ground~~ up to half the length of the runway. The length of the runway was 890 <sup>meters</sup>. After the plane took off and left the ground, and had attained a height of approximately 150 ft. its left propeller came off with a loud bang. This bang was followed by another loud bang which emanated when the engine of the plane flew off. This unbalanced the plane. The pilot of the plane tried desperately to control the plane and landed on one engine but he was unable to do so, and the plane crashed within the boundary of the aerodrome and came to a halt after hitting stone piles which had been stacked there to fill up bomb craters. The left wing of the plane was broken. The body of the plane also broke into two. The place from where it broke off into two is shown in some of the sketches which are attached to this note. The front portion of the plane caught fire and the whole of the ~~front~~ <sup>this</sup> portion of the plane was completely burnt.

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27/6/58



It is alleged that General Shidei and Major Takizawa were burnt inside the plane and could not be rescued. All the other passengers got out of the plane themselves or were rescued by others and taken to the Hospital. It is said that of the 10 persons who were taken to the hospital, 3 died later, namely, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Lt. Aoyagi, Pilot, and a Navigator.

Detailed statements given by various people are attached.

*It has also been stated by some persons that this plane had previously been damaged, it was completely unhandlable and tested for airworthiness. It was found to be quite satisfactory before starting from Saigon.*

A sketch plan of the plane showing seating arrangements is enclosed herewith.

3 photographs taken at the time of the plane crash round about the 18th or 19th of August 1945 are also attached herewith. Photographs Nos. I, II, & III relate to the actual plane that crashed. Photograph No. 4 is that of a box containing the dead body of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and photograph No. 5 shows Col. Habibur Rehman, one of the survivors of the plane crash four or 5 days after the actual plane crash. These photographs may please be returned with your opinion.

*5 sketches of the plane attached.*

Encl: as above.

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*DMN Sashy  
27/4/50*



7

Extracts from the statements of  
witnesses who appeared  
before the Netaji Inquiry Committee.

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Ex-Major Kenichi Sakai.

" At the time of the Japanese surrender during the last world war, I was posted as a Battalion Commander in charge Aerodrome defence, Taihoku. On 18-8-1945 at about noon time when I went to the aerodrome, I was told by Captain Nakamura that a plane had crashed on the aerodrome. I went to the site of the accident and found that the plane had been completely burnt and only the wreckage of it was still smouldering. .... . When I went to the site of the accident, I found that the left engine had been buried in the ground. The left wing of the plane had been broken and was lying away from the plane. The right wing of the plane was intact. The portion marked 1 in red pencil on sketch A had been completely burnt. So far as I remember, the tail of the plane had broken away from the plane. The plane had broken into two from the place marked 2 on the sketch. The tail portion had become separate from the main body but was lying very near the main body. There was no fire in the tail portion of the plane. I arrived from the barracks at the scene of the accident two hours after the accident had taken place. The wreckage of the plane was lying about 20 or 30 meters from the end of the runway."

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Ex-Captain M. Nakamura (now M. Yamamoto).

" During the last war, I was a regular officer of the Army Air Force..... At the time when the war came to an end, I was stationed at Taihoku aerodrome in Formosa. At that time, I was the Officer-in-Charge of the Aerodrome and was also in charge of the maintenance unit. I am a Ground Engineer.....

*Am N. Sakai*  
*27/9/57*

At about 1-20 P.M. Major Takizawa and Pilot Aoki got into the plane and tested it. I was standing just in front of the plane. When they started the engines, I found that one of them was defective. I raised my hand to indicate to him (Major Taki zawa) that the engine on the left side was defective. On my signal indicating that the engine was defective, Major Takizawa leaned out of the plane to listen to me. I told him that the left engine was defective and should be put right. Major Takizawa slowed down the engine and told me that it was a brand new engine which had been replaced at Saigon. After slowing down the engine, he adjusted it for about 5 minutes. The engine was adjusted twice by Major Takizawa. After being adjusted, I satisfied myself that the condition of the engine was all right. Major Takizawa also agreed with me that there was then nothing wrong with the engine. Both the engines were further slowed down to enable all the passengers to get on board. From the order in which the passengers entered the plane, I could make out that the most comfortable seats were to be occupied by General Shidei, Mr. Bose and his Adjutant. I did not look inside the plane. After everybody had taken seat in the plane, the plane taxied



to one end of the runway marked C in sketch 1. Having reached point C, the engines of the plane were speeded up to the maximum speed and then slowed down. This was the normal procedure which all Japanese planes followed to test the fitness of engines. Having satisfied myself that the engines were correct, the plane was speeded up and allowed to run down the runway. The length of the runway was 890 meters. In the case of heavy bombers, normally the tail gets lifted half the way down the runway marked D in the sketch 1, but in this case, the tail was not lifted off the ground until it had run approximately 3/4th down the runway to point E marked in the sketch 1. At that time, I was standing at a point marked F on the sketch 1. This was about 30 meters away from the air strip. About 50 meters before the end of the runway, the plane took off and made a steep ascent. Immediately on taking off, the plane tilted to its left side and I saw something falling down from the plane, which I later found, was the propeller. Later when I went on the spot, I found that a whole propeller had fallen down from the plane. At the place where I was standing, I considered that the maximum height that the plane had attained was between 30 to 40 meters but I think in actual fact it must have been slightly higher. The plane crashed on its left side at the point marked G in sketch 1, and it caught fire. The fire started from the front portion of the plane, and enveloped almost the entire plane. "

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Major Takahashi Ihaho.

" Prior to the war, I was a regular army officer. .... In the beginning of August 1945 I received orders for transfer to Cheju Island lying South Korea (Quelpart Island)..... The plane took off from Taihoku between 12-30 and 1 P.M. The plane had just become air-board when there was an explosion. It tilted to the left side and crashed to the ground in front of the runway. The runway was standard. The plane took off after it had traversed 3/4th of the runway from point 1 on sketch A and it crashed to the

Am N Sady  
27/6/58



\* \* - I am an Air Force Officer myself and have been a pilot and have been a pilot. I knew that at the time of taking off, the normal rate of revolutions per minute of the propellers of this type of aeroplane were 2600 and the maximum permissible was 2800 RPM (only 3 minutes). But when the plane was taking off I looked at the dial and saw that the indicator showed 2850 RPM. This showed clearly that the plane was overloaded and I thought to myself that the load on the plane must be reduced after we reached the next halt. In the plane I was sitting near Mr. Bose. I had a map which Mr. Bose and I consulted on the way during the course of our talk. We arrived at Tourane at about 7 P.M. During our journey from Saigon to Tourane, the plane was flying at a height of approximately 3000 meters. We were flying at a speed of 230 kilometers per hour.....

The same evening we took off 12 anti-air craft machine guns from the plane and all the ammunition. We took off the machine guns and ammunition in spite of the fact that we apprehended meeting enemy planes on the way. We took the risk in order to lessen the load in the interest of safety. We found some luggage in the bomb rack. We took off that too. The total weight that we took off from the aeroplane including the weight of the machine guns ammunition and other baggage was approx. 600 kilos. We attended to the maintenance of the aeroplane and after satisfying ourselves that everything was correct, we went to our Hotel.....

During the course of our flight from Tourane to Taihoku, the flight was very smooth and engines worked very well.....

Before 2 o'clock, the engine of the plane was tested. Mr. Takizawa tested it inside and I tested it from outside. I noticed that the engine on the left side of the plane was not functioning properly. I, therefore, went inside the plane and after examining the engine inside, I found it to be working alright.

We took off....

Am N. Sashy  
27/6/56



ground outside the concrete runway. The place where it crashed had gravel and sand spread on it. The place where the crash took place was inside the boundary of the aerodrome. When the plane crashed, it hit the ground on its nose. Then it came to its normal position.....The plane had caught fire. "

useless. When I recovered consciousness, the plane was lying outside the plane 2,

Major Taro Kono.

" I was a regular officer of the Japanese Army.....

At the outbreak of the war, I was first posted to the 7th Air Force Division at Makassar in Selebes Island.....

X X X

We took off from Taihoku at exactly 2 o'clock. The runway of the aerodrome at Taihoku is short. It is only 1600 meters. The plane took off from the aerodrome and reached a height of approximately 30 meters. Then there was a loud explosion and the plane tilted to the right side. I was sitting on the left side and I saw that both the propeller and the engine of that side had fallen off. After tilting to one side, the plane started falling off..... In the meantime, the plane crashed on the ground....

Since the propeller and the engine on the left side of the plane had fallen off, the plane fell on its right side and its right wing was completely smashed. At a place marked (a) in red pencil on sketch B 1, there as a joint where the plane split into two. There was another joint at a place marked (b) also marked in red pencil. At joint (b), the plane bent inwards as shown in sketch At BII. The time of take-off, the speed was 140 kilometers per hour. Since the plane hit the ground it caught fire. The flames were coming from the right side of the plane from the direction of the engine. As the plane was falling to the ground, the petrol tank inside the plane fell down and came in between me and Mr. Dose. "

Ann. 27/6



Lt. Col. Nonogaki.

" During the war, I was a Lt. Col. on the staff of the 2nd Air Division which was later designated as 7th Air Division..... The plane in which Netaji emplaned at Saigon belonged to the 3rd Air Force Army which was then stationed at Singapore. It was 97 K.V. heavy bomber type..... By the 17th August 1945, the Japanese had surrendered. At that time, I was stationed at Saigon waiting there for a transport to carry me to Tokyo. I had received orders for transfer to the Imperial Air General Headquarters, Tokyo.

The plane taxied to one end of the runway as shown in my sketch marked G, and started taking a turn.... I felt that the plane had left the ground and was air-board. Shortly afterwards, I heard an explosion and saw the plane nose diving towards the ground. The plane had attained a height of approx. 20 meters when I heard the explosion. Before the plane started nose diving, I heard three or four loud bangs coming from the engine side. At that time, I did not know what was the cause but later I learnt that the propeller on the left side of the plane had blown off. The maximum height that the plane had attained was about 20 meters. As the plane crashed on the ground, it broke into two-near the part marked in red pencil in the sketch plan A, and I was thrown out. I got up quickly and ran towards the main body of the plane to see that it did not catch fire but found that it had already caught fire.....The plane took off from a point marked X in blue pencil on sketch C and crashed at a point marked X in red pencil in sketch C. After crashing the plane split into two portions; the rear portion was thrown out in the direction indicated in blue dots. The main body of the plane dragged itself and came to a mount after striking it, towards

DMN Saeby  
27/4/56



the stone pile marked Y on sketch C. It was at a distance of 20 or 30 meters from the point where the plane had crashed on the ground. All this took place on the concrete runway. The plane came to a halt after hitting the same pile behind which I was taking cover..... The plane was on fire; it was ablaze. "

Captain Arai.

" I was a Captain in the Air Force belonging to Fukuoka Unit No. 2793..... I met Netaji at Saigon aerodrome on 17th August 1945 at about mid-day. I was in the plane and the propeller had already started when Netaji and his party came in a car and asked the plane to wait so that they could come on board.

In a few minutes, we had gained about 500 meters approximately. I could not judge the height accurately as I could not see the ground. I heard two loud noises and the plane started to dive towards the earth. I found the ground rapidly approaching towards us, and the next moment I realised that the plane was crashing. I learnt later that the two loud noises were due first to one of the propellers dropping and the second to one of the engines falling out.

(Remarks:- Cause of crash because of overloading). "

...

On crashing to the ground, the plane broke into two about the middle as shown in the red pencil in the sketch plan. "

Col. Rehman.

" I was a member of the Provisional Government of the Azad Hind and a Member of the War Council also.

The plane took off just about 2.35 P.M. and it circled over the aerodrome. I did not notice anything unusual in the way of noise... After taking off, the plane circled over the air-

Am N. Sarbajy  
27/6/56



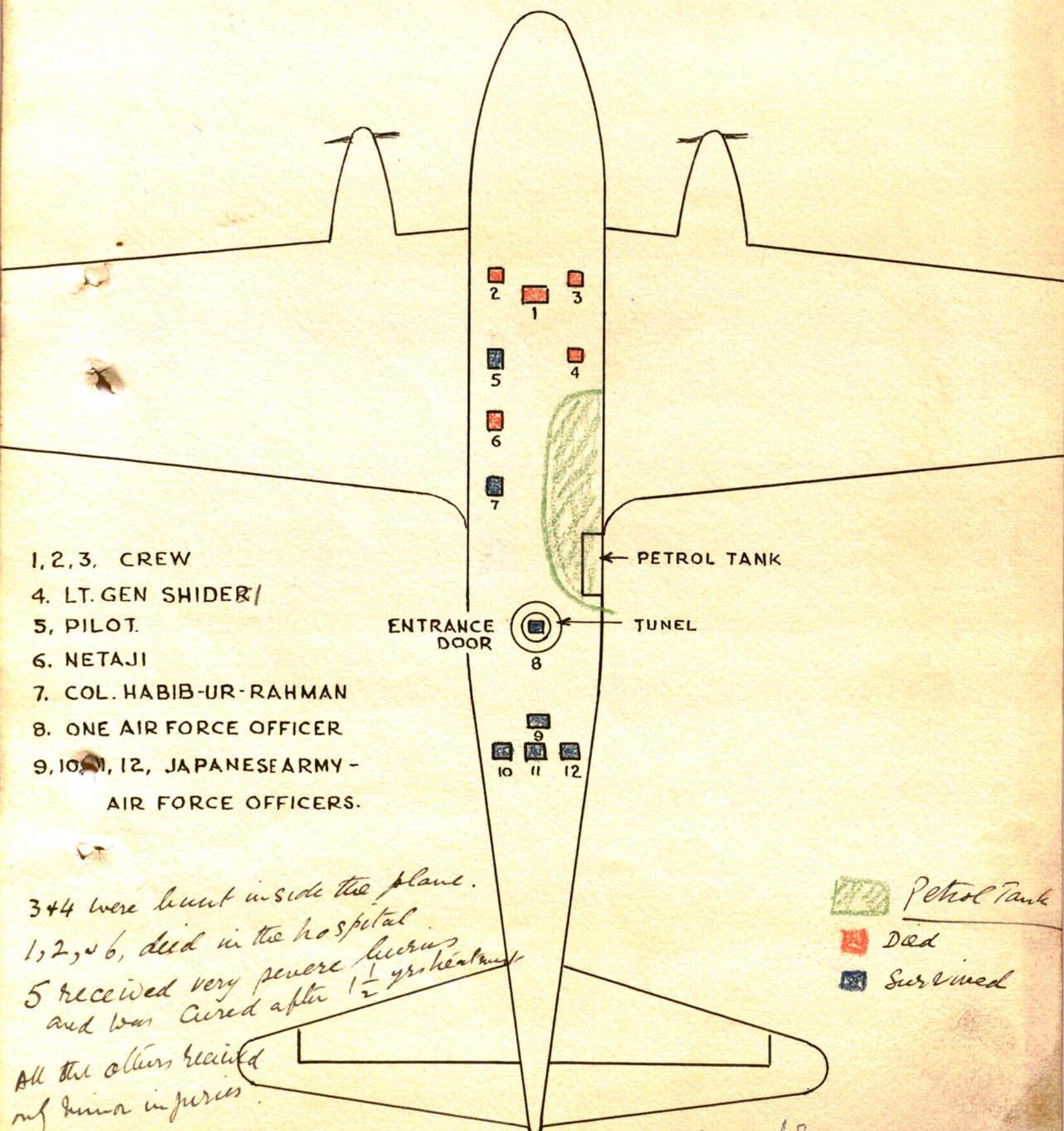
field at a few hundred feet height and then it turned north or north-east. We were not more than 5 or 6 minutes in the air and the plane was still gaining height when suddenly I heard a deafening noise as if some cannon shell had hit the starboard side of the plane. My immediate reaction was that some enemy plane carrying cannon had fired at our plane and had hit it. As soon as the noise was heard, the plane started wobbling with its nose downwards and I heard a wailing noise usually heard at the time the plane makes a nose dive ..... Within a few seconds, the plane crashed on the ground and its fore-portion of the plane split and caught fire. "

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Amn Sasby  
27/6/56



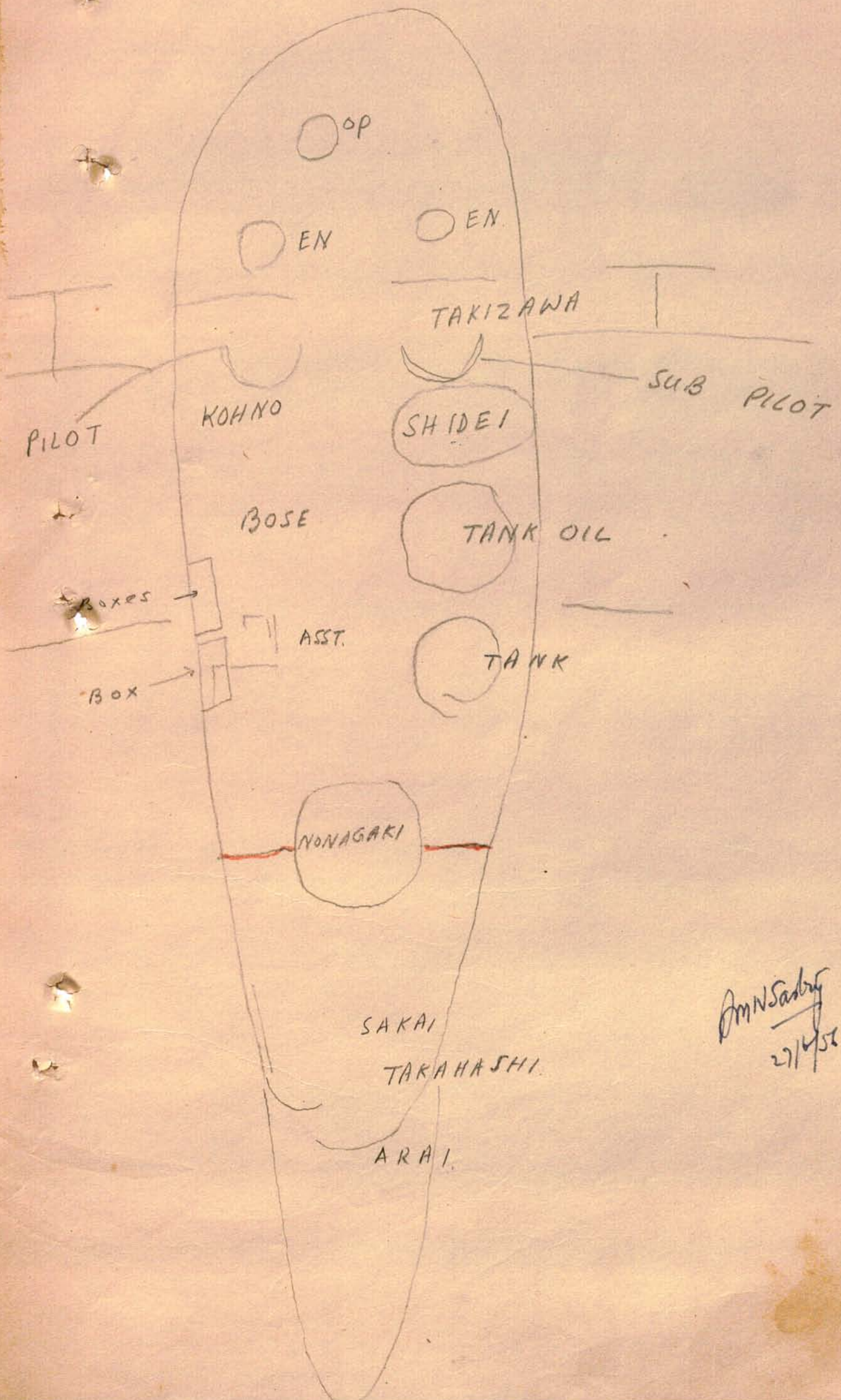
# SKETCH OF JAPANESE BOMBER IN WHICH NETAJI TRAVELLED FROM SAIGON TO TOIHOKU (FORMOSA) *Showing seating arrangements*



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27/6/56

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AmN Sakai  
2/1/51





PLAN SHOWING THE RUNWAY

PILE OF STONES & SAND

MAIN BODY OF PLANE

TAIL

500-30 mm

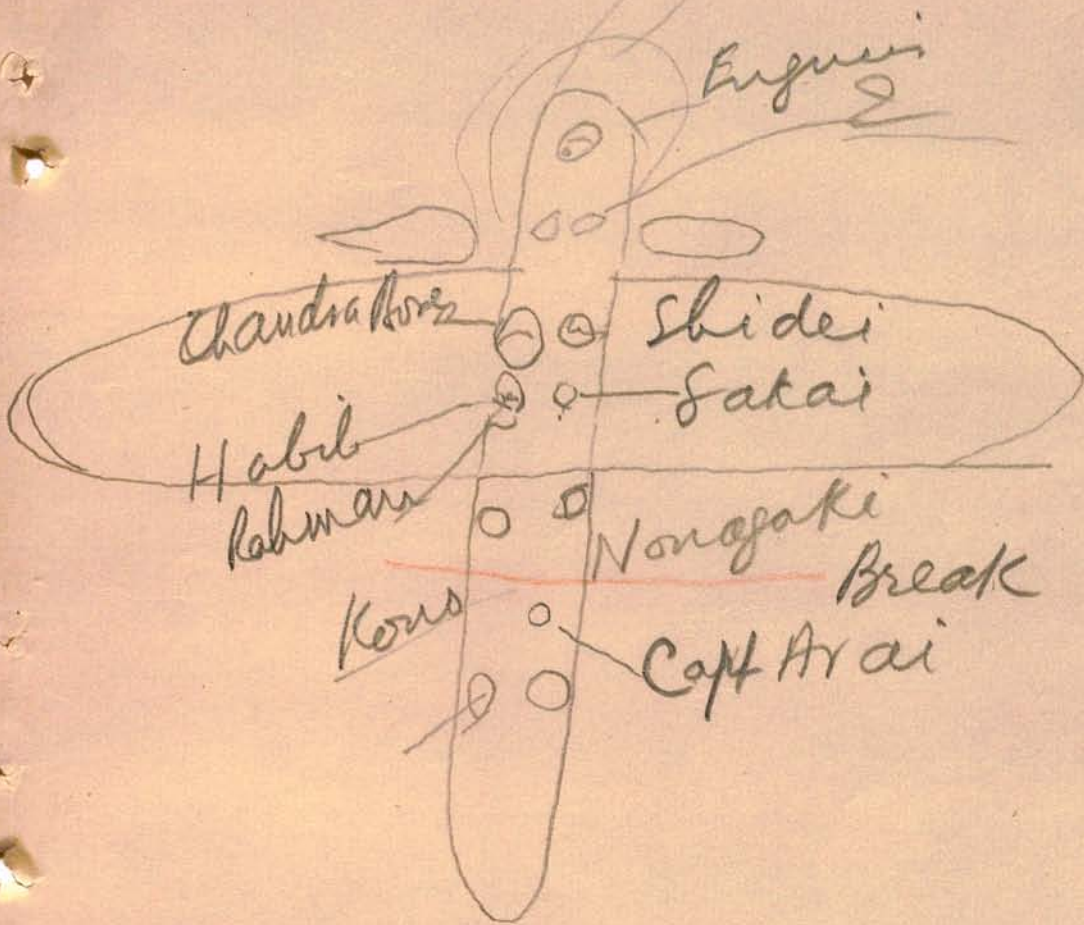
PLANE TOOK OFF HERE

Am N Sadry  
27/6/56



Okilā

Crew

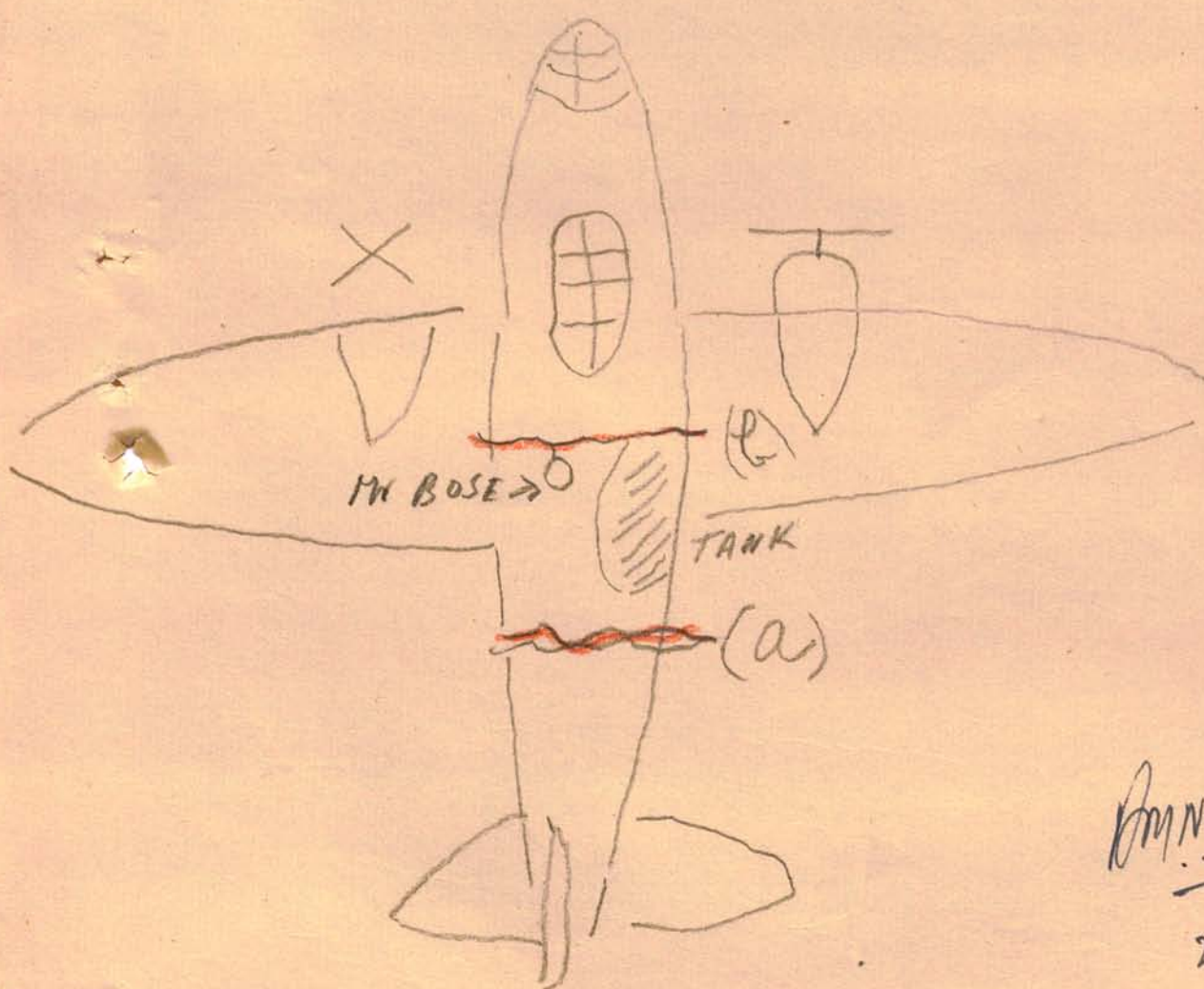


Am N. Sasbury  
27/6/56



MAJOR KONO (B)

18



Am N. Sasby  
27/6/56



11




Sketch by the

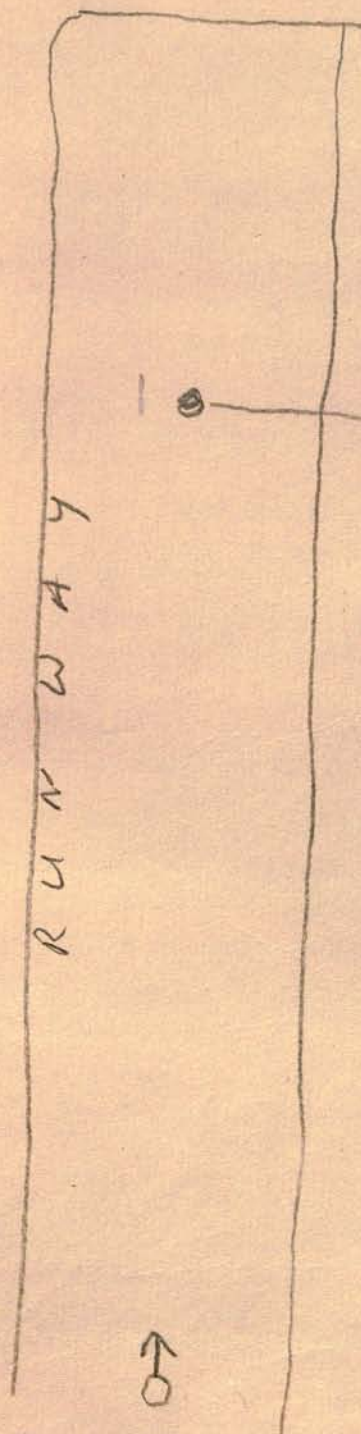
18

Tobabashi

PLANE CRASHED HERE  
nonoguchi



1, 2, 3 are various  
positions to which  
I moved.



PLANE TOOK OFF  
HERE

Am N. Sashy

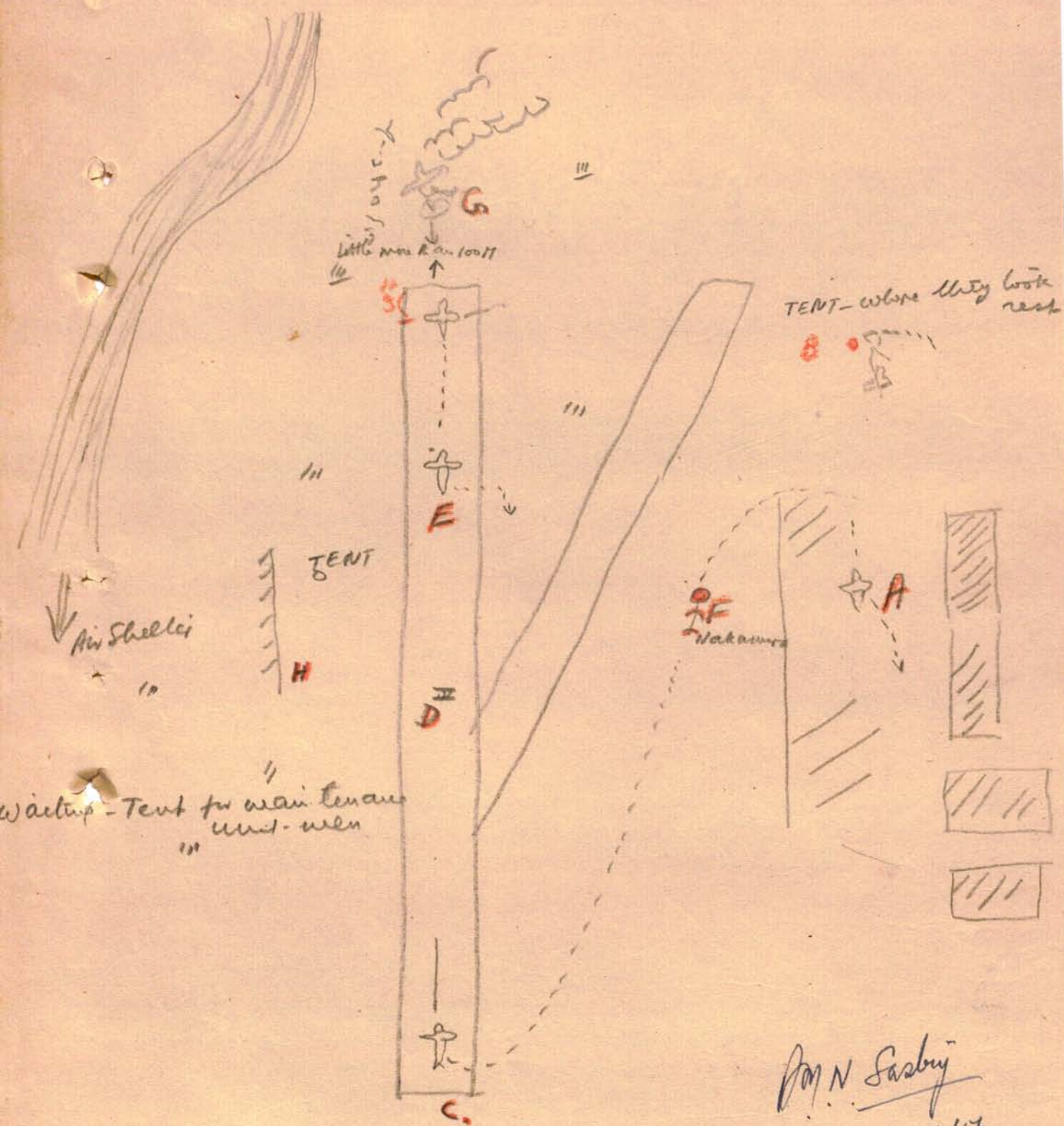
27/6/56

AERO DROME



Capt. Yamamoto

19



W. N. Sasby  
27/6/56



SECOND REPORT ON FINDINGS ON NETAJI'S DEATH MISTERY.

Mothers, Sisters & Brothers of India

JAI HIND

On the 27th March 1953, I, as General Secretary, Indian Independence League, Headquarters, East Asia and the Special Officer, issued the first report on the findings of my department to the people of India on Netaji's death mystery. It involved sustained investigation by myself and my colleagues in different parts of East Asia from the end of the War onwards. The report contained the outlines of our findings. In that report, I appealed to the Prime Minister of India to form an Investigation Commission to go into the two national issues viz : Netaji's death mystery and the treasure of the Azad Hind Government. In that report the outlines of our findings were published with emphasis on the following :-

- (a) That it was Netaji's plan to come to India, following Japan's surrender, to continue India's fight for freedom;
- (b) That the Japanese Military authorities changed the direction of the course of the Plane suddenly at Saigon on the 17th August, 1945, against the wishes of Netaji;
- (c) That the Japanese Military authorities promised that the alternative plan would be followed. (This alternative plan was that Netaji would stay somewhere in East Asia for the time being)
- (d) That the Japanese officers to whom was entrusted the operative part of the plan for execution did not act at all.
- (e) That a sense of complete frustration and defeatism seized the mind of the Japanese military officers concerned and as such they did not dare irritate Britain and America by way of extending further facilities to Netaji's Mission, which would eventually go against British and American interests. Nor, since they were conscious of Netaji's popularity, did they desire to surrender Netaji to Britain and thereby wound Indian sentiments;
- (f) That we believed Netaji should naturally remain alive but, if Netaji was no more, we equally believed, that there was some foul play somewhere and that some heinous crime must have been perpetrated in the darkest moment of our history. This was our charge. And the responsibility lay on these Japanese Military officers who took charge of Netaji;
- (g) The formation of an Investigation Commission by the Govt. of India for finding out the circumstances and evidence in connection with the reported 'Plane Crash' on the 18th August 1945 was demanded.

..... (h)



- (h) Since the Prime Minister of India declared in Parliament in the early part of 1953 that the Govt. of India were convinced about the death of Netaji, it was stressed as to why the Govt. of India should not take it to be a supreme moral duty to place before the people of India the reason of their conviction and the materials leading to that conviction. It was stressed as to how a National Government could remain true to its character by choosing to withhold publication of the materials concerning the life of India's greatest revolutionary and as to how there could be any relation between the policy making of the state and the materials available at the disposal of the Government in connection with the reported 'Plane Crash' or any other incident.
- (i) That the visit of Sri S.A. Ayar to Toyo<sup>K</sup> in 1951 was unauthorised and his tour was a conducted one and the course an appointed one in order to bury the great issues of the vital national importance. Why did the Govt. of India choose to send just one man (Sri S.A. Ayar to Japan for investigation? Why did Sri S.A. Ayar choose to keep his findings secret when Netaji's life is the concern of the whole of India.
- (j) That no account was given of the fate of that national treasure that was sent with Netaji and was delivered to Sri S.A. Ayar and Sri M. Ramamurthi at Tokyo and that Sri S.A. Ayar and Sri M. Ramamurthi could not shirk responsibility.
- (k) That Sri Rama Rao, Sri K.P.S. Menon and Sri Chattur did not act even when told that the treasure belonging to the Azad Hind Govt. was lying with Sri Ramamurthi.
- (l) That Sri S.A. Ayar did not inform the I.N.A. Enquiry, Relief & Rehabilitation Committee and the I.N.A. Advisory Committee about the Treasure and the restoration thereof.
- (m) That the Japanese Govt. and its people should help in the investigation of the 'death mystery' of Netaji so that the name of Japan as a whole may not be stigmatised in relation to I.N.A. and the leader before posterity.

Now that the Government of India has so far not formed any Investigation Commission. I am placing before the people of India the second report containing the outlines of specific charges in view of the gravity of the issue and of the very deep and sincere interest of the people of India in Netaji. A section of the people take it for granted that Netaji died as a result of the plane crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, 1945 and willnily accept the version of the Japanese authorities concerned and as such do not think it of any utility to reopen the case. It is a manoeuvre to evade knowing the truth. The larger section of the Indian people believe out of sentiment and love for Netaji that Netaji is alive and safe somewhere and that the reported plane crash was a mere cover to hoodwink the enemy.

Denied as .....



Denied as they are the opportunity of an endeavour<sup>e</sup> to know the real facts they remain complacent knowing not that this attitude of complacency is indirectly helping the main issue to be burried, which is just the strategy of the enemy. Another type of people have of late been indulging in entirely lending their ears to irresponsible story - tellers asserting that Netaji is definitely alive and that they know where<sup>e</sup> he is. And this attitude helps directly - inspite of them, in shunting off the grave issue. So, as is the wont of human beings everywhere legends are allowed to grow and grow around national heroes<sup>e</sup>, and in India they grow around Netaji only to cover the truth.

Consequent on our thorough investigation we have come to the conclusion that the people of India should not either accept the plane crash as a genuine accident leading to the death of Netaji or be complacent that Netaji is alive since both these attitudes would help the ~~fixed~~ criminals responsible for the death of the most loving son of India<sup>x</sup> getting a safe cover. Much time has elapsed and any further delay, if we continue to broad over the matter would hamper the substantiation of evidence. The man involved in the crime are still alive and could be approached. Most of my colleagues though they are physically emaciated and ruined economically are yet alive and can appear and bring before the world the nature of our investigation in the most difficult condition in different territories of East and South East Asia. We do not know, however, how long we shall survive the onslaughts on our daily life - the life of ~~XXXXX~~ a withered leaf that has faced storm all these eight years. We cannot therefore wait for an indefinite period and wait for the Investigation Commission we appealed to the Government of India to form to take up this national issue of great importance. We are not sure whether it would be formed at all. It is, therefore, the unanimous decision of my colleagues and myself that we submit to the people of India our second report outlining our charges against the persons ~~involve~~ involved.

When the war.....



When the war was coming to an end with reverses on our side against the Overwhelming forces of the Allied Powers it was the natural thought of Netaji to plan for a Post-war Revolutionary programme for the independence of India. The problem was discussed in general in the Cabinet of the Azad Hind Government and the implementation thereof was discussed ~~there~~ threadbare in the inner council of Cabinet. It was the utmost endeavour of every one of us to ensure the safety and security of Netaji following the surrender and the consequent arrival of Occupation forces in East Asia who could not but be hostile to us.

THE following were decided upon :

1. That a planned programme of activities must be undertaken on India's soil soon after the end of the war (a) with the rank and file of the than British Indian forces with particular appeals to the huge number of demobbed officers and men of the Army who would be demobilised from service after the cessation of hostilities ; (b) with the labourers and workers of wartime industrial concerns and wartime industries, whose services would be dispensed with consequent on the cessation of British Imperialist needs for the moment; (c) with the peasants of the land who suffered during the war and (d) last though not the least, with the political workers of leftist tendency.
2. Directives were issued to the effect that the attention of not only the Armed Forces of the Azad Hind Govt. but also of all men combatants or non-combatants, working under the Indian Independence League in East Asia, be focussed on the movement in India in order to strengthen its revolutionary character, culminating in Armed Revolution for India's attainment of freedom. The centre of gravity, it was stressed, lay in India itself. The final phase of India's struggle had come and those who wanted to continue to serve the cause through faith and sacrifice must go to India, it was thought, by some means or other.
3. Details of approach were developed with regard to our work amongst the three services that existed in India and abroad under the British Indian Government. A detailed plan was chalked out to contact the Indian Forces working under the British Flag who would be commissioned to take up the task of occupation in East Asia.
4. ~~Netaji decided to return to Indian soil. It was decided that he was not feasible the alternative plan was that he would proceed to China, preferably to Yennan for the time being.~~
4. Netaji decided to return to Indian soil. It was decided that he would be dropped somewhere in Assam or in Bengal.
5. In case his arrival on Indian soil direct from South-East Asia was not feasible the alternative plan was that he would proceed to China, preferably to Yennan for the time being.
6. He ruled out his stay in any part of South East Asia and in Japan proper.



7. Since, however, the communication and transport were entirely in the hands of the Japanese Military Authorities, the operating part of such machinery needed for the desired movement had to be communicated to the Japanese Military Authorities through the Hikari Khikan, the Liaison Department.

REACTIONS.

1. After the fall of Burma in April '45, the fall of Berlin in May 1945 and Japan's colossal naval defeat in the Philippine waters, the Japanese Military were apprehending defeat sooner or later and though they continued the war for some months more the Japanese switched on to a submissive attitude towards Britain and America since they took it for granted that the defeat of Japan was inevitable and that the occupation of their country by the U.S.A. and Britain was a natural consequence. Japan had done enough to irritate Anglo-Saxon feelings and some of her leaders in the face of the approaching national calamity thought it prudent, in the interest of post-war Japan, not to cause further irritation to the Anglo-Saxon powers by continuing Japanese support to the I.N.A. or Netaji.
2. Some of our colleagues in the Cabinet could not rise to the occasion and be prepared to face the life inherent in the new phase of Indian's struggle as announced by Netaji and though they did not show any sign of weakness outwardly they fail inwardly that they would not ~~be~~ be able to adapt themselves to the new situation, especially to the implication of an Armed Revolution.
3. Towards the end of May, 1945, the Japanese Govt. was additionally approached by us just to be sounded, whether it would be possible for the former to arrange transport facilities for Netaji and few officers to the territory of Soviet Russia in case it became impossible for Japan to continue the war in face of overwhelming enemy forces. It was clear in that note that it was the will of Netaji and the Armed forces of I.N.A. to continue the fight for India's independence irrespective of the outcome of the war though in a different phase and on new alliances. The reply of the Japanese Govt. was that it was not possible for them to undertake the task .....



the task though it would not put any obstacle to Netaji and his chosen officers should they chose to do so- At this time the relation between Japan and Soviet Russia was anything but friendly even though the stage of belligerency had not been reached.

4. On and from the 10th August, 1945, immediately after the surrender talk on the part of Japan the morals of Japanese troops broke down considerably. Especially the highest military officers looked pale and of not only I.N.A. but also of all officers and men of the Indian Independence League all over East Asia. All personnel accepted with good grace the end of one phase of country's struggle in which they did their part well for their mother-land and began to gird up their loins to enter the new phase and to face all tribulations for an indefinite period with smiling faces and kept their spirits high.

This is the background of our mind and our struggle when the South East Asia war ended. On the 15th August, 1945, i.e. on the day of Japan's surrender, I.N.A. was yet strong in morals and courageous in mobility.

The purpose of relating the above is to place before the people that Netaji intended to come to India and acutally instructed his Officers and men accordingly.

#### EVENTS

1. On the 16th August, 1945, Netaji came to Bangkok from Singapore. We left Bangkok in the early morning of 17th August, 1945 and were destined for somewhere in Indian territory. Sri S.A. Ayar, Col. Habibur Rahman, Col. Gulzara Singh, Col. Pritam Singh, Major Abid Hassan and myself accompanied Netaji in two planes. The plans landed at Saigon apparentaly to by-pass vigilance by enemy places.
2. At Saigon Netaji was told that he would be taken to Japan. Netaji did not agree. Every one of us objected to the change of plan. We felt a little helpless for the new move so surprisingly made and that too at Saigon where we were placed in the most disadvantageous position, having been far away from our own Armed Forces, maily stationed at Bangkok, Singapore, and Moulmein (Burma)

General Isoda, .....



General Isoda, the Chief of Hikari Khikan - the Liaison Department of the Japanese Military Authority, hinted that the alternative plan would be taken up.

3. General Isoda and another Japanese Officer proposed that Netaji should go with only one Officer since there was no accommodation in the plane. All of us vehemently opposed the idea that all of us could not be given the facility to accompany Netaji. Netaji chose Col. Habibur Rahaman and asked General Isoda to get at least one more seat in the plane for me since I knew the Indian Independence League organisations in various places of the ~~area~~ area and the people and the language. General Isoda could not however give us any assurance. He promised that he would arrange another plane immediately - most certainly on that very day (17.8.45) for the rest of the members to follow Netaji - the rest of Netaji's party being Sri S.A. Ayer, Col. Gulzara Singh, Col. Pritam Singh, Major Abid Hassan and myself. The plane carrying Netaji and Col. Habibur Rahaman left Saigon Aerodrome at 1 P.M. on the 17.8.45 and Mr. Hachiya, Japan's Ambassador to Azad Hind Government and General Isoda ~~were~~ were present. Both of them promised to provide us with a plane positively the ~~same~~ afternoon.

4. On the 21st morning we were taken to the Aerodrome two planes were waiting. To our surprise Sri S.A. Ayar was taken to one plane and the rest of us (Col. Gulzara Singh, Col. Pritam Singh, Major Abid Hassan and myself) were taken to the other. When we questioned about such change the Japanese authorities said that it had nothing to do with any change of destination and that Sri S.A. Ayar was there simply to give company to some Japanese Officers. The plane in which we four were landed some time in the afternoon at Hanoi Aerodrome - far away from the city. None of us knew that we would be there and asked about the whereabouts of Sri S.A. Ayar. The Japanese authorities concerned could not give any idea.

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Please see overleaf

On the 26th August '45 .....



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\* Subsequently we were informed that Sri S.A. Ayer was taken towards Tokyo. We met Sri A.M. Sahay who had already been placed on duty there two months ago.

Next day, i.e. on the 22nd August '45 Major General A.C. Chatterjee and Sri J.A. Thivy came to Hanoi. They were also similarly misled.

On the 24th August '45 we heard of Netaji's reported demise over the radio - a short communique of the then Japanese authority with a brief reference to the plane crash alleged to have occurred on the 18th August 1945 at Taihoku (Formosa).

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On the 24th August '45  
Please see overleaf



6. On the 26th August, 1945 just a week after the reported plane crash, the Chief of the Japanese Military Intelligence Department met us at Hanoi together with a Military Officer from Toulon (Indo-China) - the seat of the Supreme Commander of the Japanese Armed Forces - Marshall Terauchi and told me in Japanese "Netajino Higoki ochiru kotowa shinic shimasen. Das sanwa Netajino yu koto torini shits<sup>e</sup> kudasaimas<sup>e</sup>", the exact translation of which is as follow : "Don't believe the plane crash as a real crash: you adjust your movements and plane in accordance with the alternative plan of Netaji. ( This alternative plan was to keep Netaji safe for the time being in East Asia so that ~~the~~ he could continue the freedom fight from a suitable place, in case it was not possible for Netaji to go inside India immediately.)

Immediately I prepared my mind and proceeded in accordance with the plan in order to contact people for taking all security measures for Netaji's safety in various bases through my own machinery. In this connection I contacted President Ho-Chi-Min who was very sympathetic and of great assistance to us. I left Hanoi on the 20th September '45 for different new destination.

7. We had to gear our mind and action into two fronts: firstly to conduct the struggle in the way and manner in accordance with the instructions of Netaji endeavouring at the same time to contact him and to ensure confidence in him, to maintain our stamina moral and political, strictly according to his instructions irrespective of consequences believing sincerely that everthing was done according to the alternative plan. In that procese all calmness was observed on my part and of my colleagues - an absolute pre-requisite in the circumstances. Secondly, we had also to investigate whether everything was followed according to the plan since the operative part of the ~~pe~~ plan itself was entirely in the hands of the Japanese Military Officers and as such the success of ~~the solemn pledge given~~ our mission hinged on the precision in the manner of execution of the solemn pledge given by the Japanese Military Officers -



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7. concerned. We proceeded from both angles. We had to be extremely cautious and reserved since even a mere lapse of some words doubting the sincerity of those Japanese officers concerned would cause still more difficulties and might jeopardise the success of the mission. In this terrific suspense we worked on. This was colossal task. We experienced insurmountable difficulties arising out of the sheer disability on our part to move and work in various places of different countries. The new political set up in South East Asia and miserable economic circumstances combined to make our task all the more difficult. Hence the delay in arriving at a final judgement.

#### OUR FINDINGS.

On final check up of the materials in regard to the whereabouts of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, we have come to the conclusion based on circumstantial evidence and individual contact that nothing whatsoever was done by the operative machinery of the Japanese Military Authorities as solemnly promised by the latter to Netaji. According to our findings through patient work into the Japanese ranks entrusted with the operative part of the plan (first phase) this act of omission on the part of the Japanese was deliberate and was attributed to the complete frustration of defeated Japan and her anxiety to avoid, in every possible way, any further hostility of Britain and America over the shielding of Netaji from the British clutch. Japan could not think of handing over Netaji to the British authorities as such an act would invariably mobilise Indian opinion against her. Japan was conscious of Netaji's immense popularity in India nor could she keep him (Netaji) underground away from British clutch as it would make the allied Occupation forces in the South Eastern Region more embittered against occupied Japan.

The Japanese Military Authorities knew the mind of Netaji and had a glimpse of the post-war Revolutionary programme and the leader's determination to form new alliances for the liberation of India and to open a new phase in India's struggle for freedom. The Japanese calculated that his resurgent appearance in the future would only cast doubt in Britain and America towards post-war Japan's bonafides in her (Japan) policy towards Britain and America with whom the post-war Japan must cast her lot for many more years. Japan tried to save herself from the wrath of both India and the Occupation Forces in South East Asia. And at the same time an impression was created that the accident (the plane crash) was one to hood-wink the enemy and to realise the alternative plan. But it really tended to cover up her defeatist mentality. It also served as a smoke-screen, at least for the immediate future, so that we could rest in complacency with the thought that at least Netaji was alive and as such we would make an endeavour to know exactly what happened on that fateful day - the 18th August '45.

Seven years from the end of war to the end of 1951, we have worked in suspense and with faith in man and God in co-operation with our trusted workers all over East Asia against Himalayan odds. We very often discussed the bonafides or otherwise of the Japanese Military officers who took charge of Netaji. We did not, however, allow our mind to be prejudiced. Some allowances were, however, made in view of Japan's extremely delicate position created by the trial of War criminals and other international complications. We did not like to cast any doubt, lest that might be interpreted as a breach of faith. Moreover, so long as there was the least chance of Netaji being contacted according to the alternative plan, any suspicion on our part towards those Japanese officers concerned, would have been to cast an unmerited suspicion on those who gave him (Netaji) shelter. Hence we had to wait until Japan got rid of the Occupation forces and enjoyed better channels for outside contact.



10 to 29  
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EVIDENCE.

1. The Macarthur Headquarters alerted the American troops stationed in India during the war when the negotiations for surrender talks was going on in order to prevent any uprising of Indian people soon after the end of the war. General Macarthur contacted Major General Iwaguro. This General was in charge of the Liaison Department vis-a-vis Indian Independence League, ~~South~~ East Asia, at the time of late Rash Behari Bose. He was marked subsequently by the Japanese High Command for having pro-American feeling. He was consequently removed. The Japanese Military Authorities were subsequently contacted by an Indian leader from India with a warning that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose must not be allowed to come to India. Evidences can be produced that this attitude was taken in view of Britain's very delicate position in India in the face of evergrowing national struggle for freedom which would certainly have been strengthened and organised by the presence of Netaji.
2. Hence the diversion of the route of the plane in which Netaji travelled.
3. Col. Kagowa, a senior Officer of Hikari Khikan served as the Liaison with enemy forces in connection with movements of Netaji.
4. The act of leaving us (Col. Gulzara Singh, Col. Pritam Singh, Major Abid Hassan and myself) at Saigon and dropping at Hanoi against the wish of Netaji and ourselves was a calculated plan.
5. The facility extended to Sri S.A. Ayer to proceed to Tokyo direct was a premeditated plan and an appointed course.
6. They allowed just one officer to accompany Netaji in order to keep him as a witness.
7. The plane crash was deliberate and was in accordance with the plan. It was not a crash - just a 'short fall' manipulated only to cause some bodily injuries to the passengers. A full crash was avoided since it was not their intention to see everybody killed. Particularly they wanted that Col. Habibur Rahman, a brilliant Officer absolutely loyal to Netaji survived since he could stand as a witness to the death of Netaji caused by a plane accident. The Japanese Military Authority took care that a full crash did not occur since that would have created doubt in the theory of plane crash itself.
8. Accordingly, soon after the crash the military authorities took Netaji to the hospital. This was in accordance with the plan to seclude Netaji from Col. Habibur Rahaman in the name of medical treatment.
9. Col. Habibur Rahaman was also taken to the hospital but was not allowed to see Netaji until Netaji was declared dead. He only saw the body already covered with a piece of cloth.
10. No photo was allowed to be taken in order to suppress any future evidence that the death did not occur due to plane accident.
11. On Japanese Authority's refusal to take the body to Bangkok, the then HQ. of I.I.L. & I.N.A., Col. Habibur Rahaman requested that the body of Netaji might be taken to Tokyo at least where the officials of the Indian Independence League and the I.N.A. cadets would have the honour to pay their last tribute to Netaji and suggested that the cremation might be held in Tokyo. The Japanese Military Authorities concerned refused.



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12. The death certificate was issued by a Captain of the Japanese Army and not by the Chief Medical Officer who attended Netaji while he was taken to the Hospital and administered first-aid. This Chief Medical Officer did not attend subsequently and no special treatment was afforded by physicians to the Hospital though it was announced that after the plane crash Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was seriously wounded.
13. A summary cremation followed without observing any rites.
14. Major General Iwaguro and Col. Fujiwara are involved in it.
15. General Kawabe, Commander-in-Chief, Japanese Expeditionary Forces in Burma and General Isoda, Chief of the Hikari Khikan could not save the situation since at Formosa Netaji fell into the group of pro-American Japanese forces, who were all out to save themselves soon after the fall of Japan. General Kagawa and General Isoda were instrumental in effecting the change of direction of the plane and to divert the course of the Plane towards Formosa from Saigon.

AZAD HIND TREASURE

1. The gold that was sent with Netaji (we took it from Bangkok where it was kept at the Indian Independence League, Headquarters) from Saigon has so far not been accounted for. The gold was delivered by some Japanese officers to Sri S.A. Ayer and Sri Ramamurthi, the Chairman, Indian Independence League, Tokyo Branch on the 29th August, 1945.  
*\* of the former and Major General J.K. 2. - Rhonnie was the Chairman*
2. Sri S.A. Ayer and Sri Ramamurthi did not give any account of this sacred treasure either to the I.N.A. Enquiry, Relief & Rehabilitation Committee or to the I.N.A. Advisory Committee when no less a person than the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the Chairman for the latter Organisation. When sincere efforts were made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, late Sarat Chandra Bose and other distinguished Indian leaders to collect funds from everywhere, why did not Sri S.A. Ayer report to the above two competent committees with which they (Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and late Sri Sarat Chandra Bose) were closely associated.
3. Under the head 'Indian National Army Fund' in Japan transferred to the Govt. of India according to a Press Note issued by the Government of India on the 23rd October, 1953 (following the statements to the Press by me and my colleagues for the last one and half year and more asking the Govt. about the fate of the treasure that was deposited at Tokyo on the 29th August, 1945) property valued roughly at Rs. 90,000/- was recovered in September, 1951 from Sri Ramamurthi, the Chairman of the Tokyo Branch of the Indian Independence League, East Asia.
4. The treasure that was with Netaji was all gold ornaments and gold bars worth one crore approximately.
5. It is not clear whether the Government received the property, valued roughly Rs. 90,000/- from Sri Ramamurthi in cash or in ornaments or in both and whether the sum of Rs. 90,000/- includes the entire deposit the Indian Independence League had at Tokyo on account of the Azad Hind Govt. till the date of surrender or part of it. If so, will the Govt. of India enumerate how much money was seized out of the above account.
6. Was any sum recovered from Sri Ramamurthi? If so, will he explain where he got the cash from.
7. Is it from the sale proceeds of the gold deposited to Sri S.A. Ayer and to him (Sri Ramamurthi) on the 29th August, 1945?



8. If so, who authorised him to sell gold and to whom did he sell?
9. Did Sri S.A. Ayer or Sri Ramamurthi get permission from the I.N.A. Enquiry, Relief & Rehabilitation Committee or from the I.N.A. Advisory Committee?
10. Why did Sri Ramamurthi make such enormous delay in handing over the property as late as September, 1951 when the Indian Mission at Tokyo was functioning under the control of the first Interim Ministry, formed in September, 1946? Moreover, how does he explain the delay when Indian Embassies were functioning since the Independence of India on the 15th August, 1947?
11. Why did not Sri Rama Rao, the first Indian Representative and afterwards Ambassador at Tokyo, Sri K.P.S. Menon, formerly Commissioner to Nanking Government and Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sri Chettur, Commissioner to Malayan Govt. and Indian Ambassador in Tokyo till 1951, take any action when they were informed that Sri Ramamurthi was in possession of the treasure?

Soon after the end of war these three high ranking Officers were posted in most important places in East and South-East Asia. When they found that the properties of Azad Hind Government were being seized everywhere by the Enemy Property Department of the British Occupation Forces, how could they reconcile themselves when they found that the treasure of the Azad Hind Govt. was lying with Sri Ramamurthi.

12. Why did not the British Occupation Troops in Tokyo seize the treasure from Sri Ramamurthi as they promptly did in other territories in East Asia whenever they found any clue of the Azad Hind Govt. funds?
13. Why did Sri Ramamurthi join the British Occupation Troops in September, 1945 as soon as Japan was occupied when all Officers and men of Indian Independence League and I.N.A. were arrested and put to prison? Why did the British Occupation Troops show special favour to Sri Ramamurthi in appointing him as Publicity Officer of the British Occupation Troops in Tokyo? How could Sri Rama Rao reconcile himself at this unusual favouritism shown by the British Occupation Troops to Sri Ramamurthi? Sri S.A. Ayer who was on the very spot at Tokyo should explain the reason of his silence over these particular points.
14. Col. Figus of British Occupation Troops (In-charge of Enemy Property Department at Tokyo) showed special favour to Sri Ramamurthi. He knew that the treasure was with Sri Ramamurthi. Sri S.A. Ayer did not acquaint the I.N.A. Committee with this strange relation between the Enemy Property Department and Sri Ramamurthi.
15. While the seizure of all funds belonging to the Azad Hind Govt. in other territories was all complete by the Enemy Property Department of British Occupation Forces by the end of 1945, why Sri Ramamurthi was allowed to keep any treasure or funds belonging to the Azad Hind Government till September, 1951.

(On request from my colleagues in East Asia I left India in the early part of April '51. Already there was a great demand from the Indian public in Japan asking Sri Ramamurthi to hand over the treasure to the Government of India through the Indian Embassy. Sri S.A. Ayer went to Tokyo in the middle of 1951 and tried to hush up the matter by advising Sri Ramamurthi to hand over only a very small part of it to the Indian Embassy).



16. Sri S.A. Ayer did not mention anything to the I.N.A. Enquiry Relief & Rehabilitation Committee or to the I.N.A. Advisory Committee about this deposit of the property, valued at Rs.90,000/- in September, 1951 to the Indian Embassy in Tokyo. On the 23rd January, 1953 I first issued a statement from Bangkok which was given wide publicity. Subsequently the 'Osaka Mainichi' a leading daily of Japan, came out with a three column banner that Netaji's ashes had been found in Tokyo. It is noteworthy that in that report the name of Sri Ramamurthi was mentioned. It was stated that he became a multimillionaire overnight. The name of Sri S.A. Ayer was also mentioned. Sri Ramamurthi fled from Tokyo with his Japanese wife and is now in India (most probably at Gandhinagar, Madras).
17. By the end of March, 1954, it was announced at Singapore by the Enemy Property Department of the Malayan Government that gold ornaments and jewels donated by Indian citizen to the Azad Hind Government during the war - worth about one million of ruppes are in the possession of the said Department. It was declared that such people who could bring about evidence of their donation would get their things back. The people of India are aware that on the 23rd October, 1953 the Government of India announced through Dr. B.C. Roy, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, some details of various Indian funds collected and spotted in final by the Government of India in Malaya, Singapore, Thailand and Japan including those of Indian National Army and Indian Independence League. It was also announced in that communique that the Government of India had decided that the sum would be utilised for awarding scholarships to Indian students every year in respective region. Now, the question arises why a fresh announcement is made by this Enemy Property Department that articles of gold are yet in its possession. In my interview with the Authority concerned, I was given to understand that all the funds and value of articles seized by the Enemy Property Department had been transferred to the account of Government of India and the account, as per the notification of the Enemy Property Department is closed. Dr. B.C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, is reported to have said in his statement to the Press on the 23rd October, 1953, in connection with Azad Hind Govt. Funds that any further enquiry was neither necessary nor useful.

Will the people of India naturally enquire whether this fresh disclosure of the treasure (as announced by the Enemy Property Department in Malaya) has any relation with the treasure deposited in Tokyo for which myself and my colleagues have been demanding an investigation. If not, why did not the Enemy Property Department account for it earlier to the Government of India. Another question has cropped up which is fundamentally different from the policy adopted by the British Occupation Troops so far as the treasure of the Azad Hind Govt. was concerned. We were given to understand that all that was seized from the Officers of the Azad Hind Government or from the personnel of the Indian Independence movement in East Asia were transferred to the Government of India, as the amounts accrued to India. But the latest announcement of the British Enemy Property Department states that donors concerned could approach the said Department to get back their things if the proof be to the satisfaction of the Department. So far not a single Indian approached the British authorities for favour of returning their donations they contributed to the Netaji Fund Committee or to any competent department of the Azad Hind Government. On April 27, 1953, the Singapore Authorities declared in connection with Azad Hind Govt. funds that the Custodian of Enemy Property had no right to hand over any amount to any ~~respective donor or their representative~~ person. Why does the question of returning the articles to respective donors arise then? Why must not the said treasure be transferred to the Government of India account as was adopted by the British Occupation troops so far?

These pieces of ornaments contributed as they are by India's daughters for the liberation of India carry a great symbolical value. It was the wish of Netaji to place them in a National Museum in order to show to posterity that while sons of



India fought battles of Freedom daughters of India did not lag behind in contributing their mite - the sacred symbol of Indian womanhood.

May I pray that Sri Jawaharlal Nehru on whom has devolved at the moment the performance of the onerous task of defending the honour of India and her glorious sons and daughters, would exert his influence to order a thorough investigation into the issues I have raised in the report and thus satisfy the people's demand to know the real truth in connection with the plane crash. Let us hope the voice of millions will break through all barriers and reach and move the heart of the Prime Minister of India. If called upon by the Investigation Commission, I and my colleagues will prove what I have said. I take the full responsibility to the Report, including the charges I have made.

Let me appeal to the Japanese Government and the people of Japan that they would extend all facilities to allow such enquiries vis-a-vis the reported plane crash in Taihoku on the 18-8-1945 when the fate of India's most beloved son was involved and other issues I have raised in this report. Let me repeat that the history of the war of Independence under the Leadership of Netaji will not be complete without reference to Japan's contribution, service and sacrifice through her brave sons and daughters. As one who knows Japan for the last twenty two years and has loved the Japanese people and has worked with them in the making of that glorious history of India's war of Independence from the very birth of the Indian Independence Movement in East Asia in the days of that great revolutionary Rash Behari Bose of revered memory and of Raja Mahendra Pratap till the armed struggle under the banner of Netaji I appeal with the same feeling to the Japanese Government and the people to see that their fair name be not stigmatised before India's posterity. Let me affirm at the same time that should Japan choose to adopt an evasive attitude we shall deal it to be an insult to India's soul.

Lastly, may I appeal to the people of India that they will take a concerted move and prevail upon the Government of India to form an Investigation Commission to go into the national issue and thus give the final verdict on Netaji's death mystery.

JAI HIND



N.B.

Submitted at a Press Conference  
on the 18th June, 1954.

6, Bishop Lefroy Road,  
Calcutta-20.

(Debnath Das)  
Ex. General Secretary,  
Indian Independence  
League, Headquarters,  
East Asia.



5/9/72  
Mothers, Sisters and Brothers of India,

JAI HIND

I am placing before you my first report on NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE, as the Ex-General Secretary, the Indian Independence League Headquarters, East Asia, and as the Special Officer, entrusted with a great mission as per the order of Netaji on 17.5.45 and 16.8.45. I owe my compatriots an apology for the delay in submitting my findings; but I feel sure that considering enormous responsibility inherent in the task and the magnitude thereof, the development of a reactionary force in India — creating hostilities against the cause, the insurmountable difficulties arising out of sheer disability on the part of workers to move and work in various places of different countries, and, the last but not the least, the extreme beggarly condition of the workers, you will condone this delay. Moreover, the complete disintegration of the I.N.A. and its subsequent neutralisation shattered its very foundation. The most disgraceful feature exhibited in the game of somersault of some of our colleagues created no less difficulties in the way of our mission, due to difference in common outlook and doubtful co-operation almost amounting to sabotage.

The reported death of Netaji created three reactions in India;

(i) Some felt relief thinking that the greatest Indian Revolutionary Leader is gone and thus with him the stiffest resistance in their way to fame and fortunes and power.

(ii) Some took it philosophically and believed that it was a call of Destiny and that Netaji died after the fulfilment of a great mission, destined as he was, in the eternal way of Eternal India.

(iii) But the greater number of people believed that the 'Plane Crash' was no crash and that it was merely an item in accordance with the Master Plan, envisaged by Netaji and that the beloved leader would appear in the historic moment in the shaping of India's destiny.



The first reaction sought to completely quarantine Netaji's ideals; the second - typical of India's philosophic way - neutralised the very great love for Netaji by inaction and complete surrender to Fate. The third - a logical conclusion of political thinkers and workers of revolutionary faith and ideals - was ineffective, because of their difference in contents and approach, neutralising one another and thus dragging the issue in their own way rather than leading the issue to a higher place in the true perspective, away from compartmental political gains.

The Main Issue was thus sidetracked in the midst of landslides of psychological currents and cross currents.

The people of India, bereft of all guidance, looked askance to one another with a fond hope, but remained in the dark, hoping against hope, in India's way of faith in God. Netaji's ideals remained in mere story-telling and not in preaching and practising them.

Thus sandwiched between two forces, one unsympathetic and hostile and the other sympathetic but not serious to the highest pitch with a soldier's mind, we few, appointed by Netaji in his Order of the Day, had therefore to gear our mind and action into two channels; firstly, to conduct in the way as was instructed by Netaji endeavouring at the same time to contact him, and to ensure confidence in him, to keep our stature, moral and political, strictly, to his instruction, come whatever may, believing sincerely that everything was done according to Netaji's plan<sup>\*</sup> since the operative part of the plan was entirely in the hands of Japanese Military Officers who took charge of him and as such the success of our mission hinged on the precision in the manner of execution of the solemn pledge undertaken by the Japanese Military Officers, concerned. We proceeded from both angles. We had to be extremely cautious and reserved since even mere lapse of some words would cause still more difficulties and might jeopardise the success of the very mission. In the terrific suspense we walked on.

\* In that process, all calmness and precision was observed - the absolute prerequisite that was needed. Secondly, we had also to investigate whether everything was also followed according to Netaji's plan.



Ours was a colossal task. Not a single zone remained unapproached with hope and confidence in the course of the last seven years. My worthy colleagues stood all attention in their respective positions till the last moment.

Now, on a final check-up of the findings in regard to the whereabouts of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, we have come to the conclusion based on circumstantial evidence and individual contact that nothing whatsoever was done by the operative machinery of the then Japanese Military authorities as solemnly promised as per the wish of Netaji.

According to our study through patient work into the Japanese ranks entrusted with the operative part of the Plan (First Phase) this failure on the part of the Japanese was deliberate and was attributed to the complete frustration of the defeated Japan and her anxiety to avoid, in every possible way, any further hostility of Britain (which was at that time ruling over our country) and America over the shielding of Netaji from the British clutch. Japan could not think of handing over Netaji to the British authorities as such an act would invariably mobilize Indian opinion against her, since Japan was conscious of Netaji's immense popularity in India; nor could she keep him (Netaji) underground away from British clutch, as it would, on the other hand, make the occupation forces in the South-eastern Asian region more embittered to the occupied Japan.

The Japanese Military authorities knew the mind of Netaji and had a glimpse of the Post War Revolutionary programme and the Leader's determination to form new alliance for the liberation of India and to open a new phase in India's struggle for freedom and life. The Japanese calculated that his resurgent appearance in the future would only cast doubt in Britain's mind towards Post-war Japan's bonafides in her (Japan's) policy towards Britain and her allies with whom the Post-war Japan must cast her lot for many more years. Japan tried to



37

save herself from wrath of both India and the Occupation forces in South-East Asia. At the same time an impression was created that the accident was one according to the Alternate Plan apparently to cover up her defeatist mentality and frustrated stature. All this is not my hypothetical assertion — truth will come out if public investigation is made.

Now I should touch upon the plan chalked out by Netaji before he emplaned from Bangkok immediately after the termination of the South-East Asia war. As I was constantly with him in those fateful days and as I was fortunately taken into his fullest confidence, with regard to the Plan (Original and alternate) and was appointed to head the mission, I claim to speak with a certain amount of authority. From May 1945, Netaji began to think of new move because of overwhelming enemy forces. It was Netaji's plan to go to India (First Priority) and continue the country's liberation fight from some underground centre, Japan agreed to take Netaji from Bangkok to somewhere in Bengal and agreed to take responsibility so far as the necessary transport was concerned. All other paraphernalias were made by us, from the middle of June 1945. This is known to some of my colleagues in the Cabinet of Azad Hind Government and some members of Armed Forces.

On that understanding, Netaji emplaned for Saigon, as according to the Japanese, it could have been easier for him and his officers to go to India through Saigon, as there was less vigilance of the Allied Forces on that route. Mr. S.A.Ayer, Colonel Gulzara Singh, Colonel Habibur Rahaman, Colonel Pritam Singh, Major Abid Hassan and myself accompanied Netaji early in the morning of 17.8.45 from Bangkok (Netaji arrived from Singapore on 16.8.45). After reaching Saigon only, the Japanese Military authorities separated Netaji from the rest of us on the ground that there was no accommodation in the plane. Not only that, we were informed for the first time that he was to be taken towards Tokyo; nor had Netaji any idea of the whole picture.



-: 5 :-

Here I must emphasise the talk that passed on between us on one side and General Isoda, Chief of the Hikari Khikan, that was set up by the Japanese High Command to serve as the Liaison Department for conducting military affairs with the Supreme Command, I.N.A., on the other. It was 8 o'clock in the morning when we arrived at Saigon from Bangkok and we went straight from the aerodrome to two houses for a little rest. In one house, Netaji (in one room), Colonel Habibur Rahaman and myself were accommodated; in another house, just adjacent, were Mr. Ayer, Colonel Gulzara Singh, Colonel Pritam Singh and Major Hassan. Seven days and nights we had no rest - we longed for it. I was first to be awakened and Netaji was found beside me. The first few words of Netaji (he spoke in Bengali) were: "You see, they are changing the Plan - I don't know why - just come and have a talk with General Isoda." I was stunned and Netaji was requested by me not to give his consent. I immediately felt a little helpless for the new move, so surprisingly made and that too at Saigon where we were placed in the most disadvantageous position, having been far away from our own Armed Forces yet strong in morale and courageous in mobility. I found Netaji's face full of signs of restlessness; for the first time I found in him a little uneasiness and helplessness of a child. "Any way, hurry up, come to that room," Netaji said, I hurried up and found General Isoda and another Japanese officer. Immediately I gave vent to my feelings that there should be no change in the plan and that Netaji must be taken to India - the only logical step for him: "Even if we are captured", I said, "the people will come to know and help us". Netaji was listening - he did not utter a single word but his eyes spoke and I could understand his mind. General Isoda enumerated some difficulties; but they were minor and he suggested that the Alternate Plan be taken up (The principal feature of the Plan was to keep Netaji safe somewhere in East Asia) and gave me an idea of bases and routes. General Isoda said, that there would be no difficulties and so long he lived, he would keep



Netaji safe. I still refused to accept his suggestion. Netaji then intervened and asked General Isoda: "Suppose I go towards Tokyo, all of them (he meant the whole party) are certainly coming with me." Then, the other Military Officer said: "Your Excellency, there is no accommodation in the plane - we shall try to accommodate at least one Officer to go with Your Excellency." Netaji did not reply direct but turned towards General Isoda and said, "Do you think, General, they (the party) will agree to leave me alone?" Then hurriedly he told me to call other Officers. Immediately I called Col. Habibur Rahaman and just told him the gist of the talk. Then I ran to the adjacent house and called Sri S.A. Ayer, Col. Gulzara Singh, Col. Pritam Singh and Major Hassan to hurry up and report to Netaji. They all came and all of us vehemently opposed General Isoda's idea and even questioned him about the change. All of us, including Col. Rahaman vehemently resented the idea of giving seat to one Officer only to accompany Netaji. Meanwhile, Mr. Hachiya, Japan's envoy to the Azad Hind Government joined us. Both General Isoda and Mr. Hachiya assured safety of Netaji and promised to provide conveyance to the rest of us at the earliest possible opportunity to follow Netaji. But still we argued. At this moment, another Japanese military officer came in and talked to General Isoda. The General told Netaji that just at 1 O'clock in the afternoon a plane was leaving towards Tokyo and that Netaji should hurry up - there was one seat more, he added. Yet, we all did not agree. Netaji at this moment said: "You all don't worry - General Isoda has promised to provide you all with transport within the shortest possible time," and then he turned towards General Isoda and just asked, "Could you not give one more seat? Let Das come with me - he knows the place and language and will be of some help to me." "Can't say now, Netaji", the General said, "any way, I shall try once more while we are at the aerodrome." Netaji, however, asked all of us to bring our kits, and said he (Netaji) would try once



more in the aerodrome for giving us the facility. "Well, let us try, you all come, if you don't get transport, come back," Netaji said. And he gave some instruction with regard to steps to be followed. He looked determined, calm and collected. It was 17th August 1945.

We all went towards the aerodrome with our kits and three suitcases of gold ornaments and gold bars, donated by the people of East Asia towards the Netaji Fund Committee. It was only a 20 minutes' drive. When we reached the aerodrome we found the plane was almost on the move. We had only a few minutes to talk. Netaji once more told General Isoda and Mr. Hachiya about the plane for us which they had promised. Meanwhile, we were anxious about the gold; when I talked to General Isoda that the treasure must go with Netaji, he told me that the plane was already overloaded and he did not know whether the pilot would agree. Netaji interrupted and told, "It does not matter - these may come with you all." Immediately I submitted to Netaji: "The treasure must go with you, Sir," and all other officers spoke in the same strain. I turned towards General Isoda and told him: "Why not ask one or two of your Japanese officers to get down and make room for the treasure?" Meanwhile, the propellor started, so we did not wait for General Isoda's reply: Col. Pritam Singh, Major Hassan and myself took the three cases and just put them inside the Bomber and told Col. Habibur Rahaman to take care of them. Netaji embraced everyone of us and boarded the plane. We all shouted "Habib, take care of Netaji."

After three days' stay in Saigon, we were told that Netaji had gone towards Tokyo and that we were to follow him. But finally, only on 21.8.45 Mr. Ayer alone was flown to Tokyo and the rest of us were taken to Hanoi the same day, though at the time of emplaning we were given no hint of our Hanoi destination. On 21.8.45 Major General A.C. Chatterjee and Sri J.A.Thivy arrived at Hanoi



from Singapore. They were misled too. Sri A.M.Sahay was already at Hanoi.

At Hanoi we heard of Netaji's reported demise over the Radio on 24th August 1945. On the 26th August just a week after the reported death of Netaji, the Chief of the Japanese Military Intelligence Department met me at Hanoi together with a Military Officer from Towloon - the seat of Marshal Terauchi's Headquarters and told me: "Netaji no Hikoki ochiru kotowa shinio shimasen. Das Sanwa Netajino yu koto torini shitekudaisai mase," the exact translation of which as follows: "Don't believe the plane crash as a real crash; you adjust your movements and plans in accordance with the alternate plan of Netaji" (This alternate plan was to continue the freedom fight from a suitable place in East Asia, in case it was not possible for Netaji to go inside India immediately). We consulted the plan and took note of new bases. I took Col. Pritam Singh, Major Abid Hassan and Mr. J.A. Thivy into confidence and took all steps and precautions. Major General A.C.Chatterjee, Sri A.M. Sahay and Col. Gulzara Singh were all consulted. And I went ahead. My colleagues in different bases in various countries were instructed accordingly. I moved to different places in accordance with the Plan until I was arrested at Bangkok by the Occupation authorities of the Allied Powers in May 1946 and brought to India on 30.8.46.

These seven years we have worked with faith in man and God in co-operation with my trusted workers all over East Asia in the midst of Himalayan odds and suspense. We very often had discussed the bonafides or otherwise of the Japanese Military officers who took charge of Netaji; we took the late Sri Sarat Chandra Bose into confidence. We did not, however, allow our mind to be prejudiced. The late Sri Sarat Chandra Bose gave me inspiration to proceed with



-: 9 :-

my mission, since some allowances of time must be given in view of Japan's extremely delicate position, war-criminal's trial and other international complications and no less, the disguised hostility of the Power that be in India towards Netaji. We became very often restless though, we did not like to cast any doubt, lest that might be interpreted as a breach of faith. Moreover, so long there was the least chance of Netaji being contacted according to the alternate plan, any suspicion on our part towards the 'benefactor' would have been as if to destroy the very roof that gave him (Netaji) shelter. Hence we had to wait until Japan got rid of the Occupation forces and enjoyed better channels for outside contact. Hence the delay in accordance with the strategic necessity. There was a historical necessity too, in case everything was done according to the plan, for Netaji's remaining underground for obvious reasons only to appear at the historical moment for shaping India's destiny.

We gave our last push as soon as Japan got rid of the bindings of the occupation period. Meanwhile, to our utter surprise Sri S.A. Ayer went to Japan and gave the report of his conducted tour. In his statement he did not care to go through the salient features and simply came to a conclusion of his own apparently to bury the great issue of such national importance. We were perplexed when we found to our utter surprise that he was inducing the Government of India to bring the so-called ashes of Netaji. The Japanese authorities concerned, on the other hand, have been also trying to hush up the matter. The Government of India have not chosen to set up a Top Level Enquiry Commission as has been demanded by the people of India.

When all avenues to find out Netaji were exhausted and when we found after thorough investigation and minute scrutiny that nothing whatsoever was done by the Japanese military officers in matters of executing instruction to different bases, as they promised in accordance with the alternate plan, we tried our best to



-: 10 :-

contact the Japanese officers concerned. Replies where available are only too vague. Most of them are dead silent.

Contact or no contact, we believe Netaji should naturally remain alive but, if Netaji is no more, we equally believe there is some foul play somewhere and that some heinous crime must have been perpetrated in our darkest moment of history. This is our charge. And the responsibility lies on those Japanese Military Officers who took charge of Netaji. Those officers who are all living today can not shirk that responsibility. It is one thing if, due to changed circumstances, they failed to continue the task even though solemnly pledged but it is quite another when the life of Netaji is concerned. As one who knows Japan for the last twenty years and has worked with brave Japanese people in the making of that glorious history under the banner of Netaji my grateful heart goes to the Japanese people for all they did for us. I.N.A.'s history will not be complete without reference to Japan's contribution, service and sacrifice, which will remain written in golden letters. It is with that feeling I would appeal to the Japanese Government and its people to see that their fair name be not marred with stigma in their relation with the I.N.A. and the Leader before the posterity. Hence I appeal to them in fairness to their love towards India to allow such enquiries vis-a-vis the reported plane crash in Taihoku on the 18.8.45 when the fate of India's most beloved son is involved.

We understand that the Government of India is making arrangements to bring Netaji's ashes to India. Why did not the Government of India form a top-level Investigation Committee at the outset to investigate the reported death of Netaji - a Committee ~~representing~~ representing all shades of Indian opinion and the public? Why did the Government choose to send just one man (Sri S.A.Ayer) to Japan for the said investigation - a man who had been in Japan just for



-: 11 :-

a month or so and did not know the language and the country well and had to yield to a conducted tour ? When he did know what transpired between the Japanese officers and us in the matter of the execution of the plan did he find him in an independent position to question them for their (the Japanese officers) failures to keep up the pledge and the reason thereof. If not; why ? If so, why should he choose to keep his findings secret from us who are all pilgrims to that 'journey's end'. The question of the person of Netaji is the concern of the people of the whole of India.

Now, again during all this seven-year period, the whereabouts of the gold, which rightfully belongs to the Indian Nation, has remained a mystery. I put up this matter many times in the Central I.N.A. Advisory Committee but Sri S.A. Ayer did not give any reply. It was after my interview with the United Press in Bangkok on the 23rd January, this year, which was published in all major papers of Japan, Thailand and other parts of East Asia that the 'Osaka Mainichi', a leading daily of Japan, came out with a three-column banner that Netaji's ashes have been found. It is also noteworthy that in that report the name of Mr. Rammurti, Ex-President of the Indian Independence League, Tokyo Branch, who became multi-millionaire overnight, was mentioned prominently. It is also known that Sri S.A. Ayer delivered the treasure to him. I understand Mr. Rammurti is now in India with his Japanese wife and as an old acquaintance of his, I would earnestly request him to explain to the people of India why he did not report this to the Government of India or to the I.N.A. Enquiry Committee or to the Central I.N.A. Advisory Committee all these seven years. He should also explain how he got the treasure and under what circumstances he got it. Is it a fact that he offered his service to the British Information Service in Tokyo as soon as the Occupation Troops landed in Japan ?



Sri S.A.Ayer should also explain the reason of his silence over these particular points and, as one who was on the very spot at Tokyo and as one who chose only Mr. Rammurthi to deliver the sacred treasure he should explain the situation in the light of the information that might be at his disposal. It is also astonishing that in spite of repeated appeal of Indian community in Japan, India's envoys accredited in Japan did not take any action for the restoration of the national treasure from Mr. Rammurthi. Why have not the Government made any arrangements to interview and question those people whose names are prominently associated with the disappearance of the gold ? The details of the treasure will be submitted to the Investigation Commission.

It is a glorious chapter of the Azad Hind Government how this national treasure voluntarily contributed by Indian mothers, sisters and brothers in East Asia to Netaji for the sacred cause was protected by loyal officers and men. Sri Yellappa, Colonel Misra, Lt.Nazir Hussain and Lieutenants Josephine and Stella (Rani Jhansi Regiment) became martyrs to protect the treasure. Our worthy colleagues Major General A.C. Chatterjee, Major General J.K. Bhonsle, Sri J.A. Thivy, Sri J.N. Bhaduri, Director, Azad Hind Bank, Pandit Raghunath Sarma, Secretary, Finance Department, Indian Independence League, Thailand, Major Abid Hassan, Confidential Secretary to Netaji, Sri E. Bhaskaran, Confidential Stenographer to Netaji, Sri U.C. Sharma and Sri C. Rai Narulla, Sri S.N. Dasgupta, Sri A. C. Das, Sri P.N. Pillay - officers of the General Secretariat and Hav. Kundan Singh and Adya Prasad, Personal orderlies to Netaji - to name only a few - who played a great part in protecting the treasure in toto will, I am sure, verify the details as correct.

It was the greatest moment of our life when the national treasure was delivered to Netaji's new Headquarters in full on evacuation from Rangoon. This sacred treasure belongs to the nation and anyone found guilty of appropriating it is a traitor



to the country and must be punished accordingly. The findings will also throw light on the circumstances that led to the reported plane crash.

Will the people of India remain quiet and accept without any investigation the so-called ashes of India's most beloved son ?

It is beyond our comprehension to think why the Government of India have chosen not to set up an Investigation Commission for finding out the circumstances and evidence in connection with the reported 'Plane Crash'. A new situation has arisen by the Prime Minister's declaration for the first time in the Parliament recently that the Government of India are convinced about the death of Netaji. Why did not the Government of India take it to be a supreme moral duty to place before the people of India the reason of their conviction and the materials leading to their conviction. It is the question of life of one so dear to India and universally respected and cannot be disposed of light-heartedly. We do not know how a National Government could remain true to its character by choosing to withhold publication of the materials concerning the life of India's greatest revolutionary. Could there be any relation in the policy making of the State, with the materials available at the disposal of the Government in connection with the reported 'Plane Crash' or any other incident ? The people have the right to know the details and themselves to judge. We, therefore, appeal to the Government of India to form an Investigation Commission with the Chief Justice of India, Judge of integrity and international repute like Dr. Radha Binode Pal and other distinguished citizen.

The question of bringing the 'ashes' of Netaji does not arise.



Mothers, Sisters and Brothers,

We appeal to you to call upon the Government of India to take up the issue, lest the Posterity should blame us all for our indifference towards the fate of India's Man of Destiny.

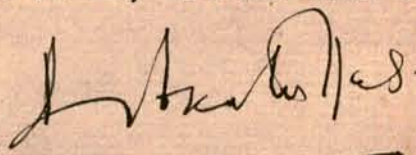
I earnestly pray that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru should exert his influence to order a thorough investigation into the issues I have raised in the report and thus satisfy the people's demand to know the real truth following the disappearance of Netaji. Let me pray the voice of millions will break the barrier of the vicious circle and reach and move the conscience of the Prime Minister of India.

I swear, in the name of God, in the name of those Martyrs who have died for our freedom and in the name of the people of India that my findings are not based on any hypothesis or imagination. If called upon by the Investigation Commission, I and my colleagues will prove what I have said. I take the full responsibility of this Report, including the charges I have made. As a soldier I have worked with utmost discipline, as a soldier, I submit today the findings to the people of India without mincing matters and as a soldier, I will stand on duty to defend what I have said, I swear I have no political motive.

Let India take Netaji's issue - the great National Issue concerning the Life and Mission of India's greatest Revolutionary.

Let the sons and daughters of Eternal Hind remember that the deathlessness of Her Soul lies in what we do, not in what we are.

JAI HIND



( Debnath Das )

N.B.- Submitted at a Press Conference  
on the 27th March 1953.

6, Bishop Lefroy Road,  
Calcutta - 20.



File 48  
1.6.48

Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, Indian patriot for independence and Mr. Ras Bihari Bose, chairman of Indian Independence League arrived at Singapore at 2.37 p.m. on June 29. His fervent speech delivered at the convention of East-Asian representatives of the Indian Independence League was responded with a storm of applause by the audience who buried the Daitoa Theater in the morning of the 4th of July in Singapore.

At the convention, Mr. Subash Chandra Bose was formerly appointed by Mr. Bihari Bose as Chairman of the Indian Independence League, and it was met with thunder of ~~storm~~ storm. Then, Mr. Bonslay delivered a welcoming speech for the appointment of Mr. Chandra Bose as the chairman of the League. His speech was followed by the first speech by the new chairman, Mr. Subash Chandra Bose. His quiet tone of speech suddenly changed into burning tone when he said, "Rise up now, otherwise we may die."

After that, Prime Minister Tojo of Japan gave a congratulatory speech promising wholehearted cooperation for India's independence. The convention was closed with the singing of Indian national anthem after adopting a resolution thanking for Japan.

As for me, I quite agree with the opinion of Mr. Menon, delegate for the United Nations. Peoples of all Asiatic countries are pinning their hope on him for his efforts at the meeting of the General Assembly of the U.N. I love India from the bottom of heart. I shall be very grateful if you will kindly tell Mr. Menon, after returning home, that I respect him and that I love India.

13th May 1956.

ISAMU KAKIZAKI  
Kanaya, Daigo-mura, Hirayasu-gun,  
Akita-Ken.

To: The Chairman,  
The Netaji Inquiry Committee.



愛印一國に於ては中國と日本と大少各國のミヤ州の代義  
ノ一理事士同一人に於てはミヤ州國民は尊敬ノ一  
此はミヤ州の運文の人物に於ては民情を願其ノ平和が出  
るミヤ州の思ふ事甚々御禮に於ては歸國後ノミヤ州に日本  
一角に於ては尊敬ノ一愛印一青年あるミヤ州の語一ミヤ州の  
斷固たる愛印家也

愛印・ミヤ州・ミヤ州・ミヤ州・ミヤ州調査委員会  
ミヤ州・ミヤ州・ミヤ州・ミヤ州・ミヤ州長殿

昭和三十一年五月十三日

愛田縣平康郡醍醐村余屋

柿崎勇





説を行ふ十一時廿分遂にスミス氏の第一聲を萬雷の如  
きと怒濤の絶叫金会衆は獨立完遂のため一人ひと  
手を打振て湧き返る諸君「ボース氏第一聲は「インドー語心  
底を揺るがして進んだ一言を聞き流さず」と國連に告ぐる林  
房雄に莊重の靜かな会場に沁み入るやうな莊重の言葉が  
豁然とやうな熱辭に變つた「今も起て燃えつゝは死あるまで  
一言一句肺腑を吐く絶叫斯くを終った引續き種に字句の  
中に全面的に協力と援助を惜しまず自の東條首相の  
祝辭が代讀された日本萬歳の嵐が場外ほび湧き起る  
次は総員起立の中に日本の感謝決議を行へ更に印度  
國歌を合唱して同十一時感激のうちに大会を終つた五日印  
度獨立聯盟本部では五日スミス・チャンドラ・ボース氏が印度  
獨立聯盟会長に就任した五日午後三時発表した。

## 松本

國連總會で原子力問題で御職務中の入る國連理事  
土岡の國調書を「土岡」は國連總會に御出席される



港・佛印・洋・ホルネオ・スクリュー・ビルマ等各地代表

者に始り數十の参加者は会場を埋めて五鼓の餘地は

一場外に群がらる。印度民衆も亦聲高らかに印度萬

歳を祝する。印度國旗は勿論「戦はざれば勝利なり」

と堅き決意を現した。ホルネオに埋められた会場には開会前

既に斗志が湧き出る午前十時五十分参列者二百に五

リ拍手をするスクリュー・ホルネオ・スクリュー・ビルマ等

と印度國旗の掲げられた正面定席に向ふスクリュー・ホル

ネオは白の背廣に白の帽子、文字に結んだ口訃に決

意の程を示してゐる。やがてホルネオが印度服も豊かに

正面に進みスクリュー・ホルネオ・ビルマに花束を贈れば会場も

破れんばかりの拍手が起る。然るに開会総員起立印度

の頌には涙を傳へた續いて十時半會にり・ホルネオ演壇に

進んで挨拶を行つてスクリュー・ホルネオを紹介して會長に任命

すれば歡聲會場を揺るがす決てスクリュー代表としてホルネオ

西氏が至つてスクリュー・ホルネオ歡迎同志の堅き決意を露めた演



當事情報

印度獨立運動の斗士スミス・チャンドラ・ボース氏は印度  
獨立聯盟会長ラス・ビハリ・ボース氏と共に去月二十九日

午後二時三十七分昭南に晴れの晴第一歩を印した。右

に關し同日午後三時獨立聯盟本部より次の如

く発表された。印度獨立聯盟本部発表東亞

印度獨立聯盟会長ラス・ビハリ・ボース氏並に印度の

偉大なる愛國者にして且革命運動の指導者

のスミス・チャンドラ・ボース氏は東京昭南に到着

した。印度獨立聯盟東亞代表者大会「今日起て燃

すは死あるのみ」スミスも破れよと絶するスミス・チャ

ンド・ボース氏の熱辯に会場を揺るがす。絶賛と拍手の聲

印度獨立聯盟東亞代表者大会は去月四十年前昭南

市大東亞劇場を開催された。二の日夜來の雨が降り

晴れ清涼の氣溢れる会場には三色の印度國民旗が

はたらく定刻十時半スミスは勿論日本・滿洲省

14.5.28  
14.5.28





日本郵便 10



日本郵便 10

史待



日本郵便

東京都千代田区丸の内外空立階  
日本大使館

中・ア・ノ・本員長殿





秋田縣平泉郡醒醐村金屋  
神崎 五郎



File  
Sir  
1.6.58

Dear Sir:

I am a young man who is studying at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Science of the Yamagata University. I have no information at all as to the accidental death of Mr. Chandra Bose, but I am the one who is praying for your successful results of the investigation regarding Mr. Bose whom I had respected in my boyhood. Such being the situation, I took up a pen to write to you.

When I was a little boy, many prime ministers of Asiatic countries visited Japan to attend a conference of prime Ministers of the Greater East Asiatic held in Tokyo. When they arrived in Tokyo, I cheered them waving a flag together with many other boys in front of the Finance Ministry. I still remember the face of Mr. Chandra Bose who was smiling towards us boys leaning out of the motor-car. We all liked India, and Mr. Chandra Bose was very popular among us, as articles about him were carried in the magazines for boys. It is a great pity that he should have been killed of an accident.

I never hesitated to write my graduation thesis on the subject of "Problems of India's Economic Development" because of my long-cherished dream for India. I am now striving for the completion of my work.

I regret very much that I cannot be of any help for your investigation work, but I am praying for the successful completion of your work.

29th May 1956.

Faithfully yours,

TASUKE FUJIWARA  
4th year class, Faculty of Liberal  
Arts and Science, Yamagata Univ.

To  
The Netaji Inquiry Committee,  
C/o Embassy of India in Japan,  
Tokyo.



Su 30.5.58

謹啓

小生は山形大学文理法学部に籍を置く一青年であります。  
 自分はチャンドラ・ボース氏の不慮の死去については  
 何等情報を持する者ではありませんが、過日朝日新聞  
 を観て、自分の少年時代の憧れであつたボース氏の調査に  
 心から成功を祈り声援を送りたいと思ひ、不眠不休  
 筆を取りました。

自分の少年時代（その頃はあのいまだ戦争が盛んな頃で  
 した）確に東京で大東亜首相会議が行われ、アジアの各  
 国から多勢の首相が来日された時、自分は大勢の少年達と  
 共に大蔵省の前で盛んに観迎の旗を振つて、次から次へと  
 自動車を進んで来る、これらのアジアの指導者達に力がかかり、  
 歓声を上げていました。その中でインドの代表、チャンドラ・ボース氏  
 の目録をかけたターバンを巻いた姿が、自動車から乗り出すように  
 して、我々少年の心へ微笑されたのを今もありと想像する  
 ことが出来ます。私達少年は皆、インドびいさでいたし、特に  
 チャンドラ・ボースという一種変つた名前の御方は独得でした。



ので、学校でいつも話題になっていました。その頃、少年雑誌にウズ、インド独立の陣頭に立つケヤントウ、ホースさんを皆憧れ尊敬の念で熱愛して目をかきやわらして読んだものでした。そのケヤントウ、ホースさんが不慮の事故でなくなりましたのは、本事に残念でなりませんでした。

そうして少年時代より、ずっと持ち続けて来た、インドへは選ぶ卒業論文のテーマに、インド経済発展の諸問題を探求の結晶でもあります。この完成のため、今、せつせと力を傾注しております。

私には、本事に何も、お国の調査の手伝は出来ないのですが、心からホース氏の十分なる調査の成功をお祈りし、声援を惜みません。

昭和三十一年五月二十九日

不備

インド大使館調査団様

山形市小川 学寮

山形大学文学部四年

藤原 明



東京都千代田丸の内

52

内外ビル五階

インド大使館内

インド・ネパール調査委員会

中野郵便局





5/28.

山形市小自町 学舎

山形大学文理学部四年生

藤原 明



List of letters received in Japanese.

1. Mr. Komatsu, C/o Mitsui, 1-273, Gotenda, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, dated 15th May 1956.
2. Mr. Shoji Oda, C/o Kohmin Jutaku, No. 2, Kamiyama-cho, Kochiya City, Niigata-Ken, dated 12th May 1956.
3. Mr. Ikeda Bunkashiryo Kenkyojo, No. 1119, 7-chome, Kishi-cho Urawa City, dated nil.
4. Mr. K. Hori, Foreign News Section, Tokyo Bureau, The Chubu Nippon Shimbun, No. 22, 2-chome, Uchisaiwai-cho,
5. Mr. Noboru Shibasaki, No. 277, Noda, Noda-city, Chiba-Ken, dated the 12th May 1956.
6. Mr. Keigo Ozawa, C/o Kokan Kogyo K.K., Ikasaka-mura, Higashi Tsukuma-gun, Nagasaki-Ken, dated nil.
7. Mr. Masao Miyoshi, No. 36, Gogatsu-cho, Fukushima-City, dated nil.
8. Mr. Sankatsu Koyabashi,  
Ochiai, Yamato-cho,  
Kurokawa-gun  
Miyagi-ken  
Date 11/5/56.
9. Mr. Nakamura  
No: 732, 2-chome,  
Shirota-machi,  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.  
all nil.

ISSUED

23.5.56



54

May 28, 1956

Shri A. K. Dar,  
First Secretary  
Embassy of India  
Tokyo

Re: Netaji Bose Enquiry Committee

Dear Shri Darji:

We thank you for your kind letter of May 21, 1956, in which you communicated to us the Chairman's reply to our letter of 18th. instant, in which we sought assurance of the Committee on a couple of points.

We carefully studied the Chairman's reply and re-studied the terms of reference circular, which latter is identical to what you gave us before.

It appears to us that either the Chairman is not seriously interested in our appearance before the Committee or that, in the absence specific assurance we asked, we will not be doing justice to the cause by giving a fettered evidence.

With many regards,

Sincerely yours,

*A.M. Nair*  
A.M. Nair

*L.R. Miglani*  
L.R. Miglani

Forwarded to the Chairman  
Netaji Enquiry Commission; For advice of any further action desired.

*Attn*  
25/5/56

*24.5.56*

*24.5.56*



No.

55  
May 21, 1956

Dear Messrs. Nair and Miglani,

Please refer to your joint letter of May 18th, 1956, regarding the giving of evidence to the Netaji Enquiry Commission. The letter was placed before the Committee and on behalf of the Committee the Chairman has recorded that I should convey to you the following from the Committee :-

"The Committee has read the letter from Messrs. Nair and Miglani, dated the 18th May, 1956, and are glad to note that the two gentlemen would be willing to appear and testify before our Committee. Assurance has been asked for on two points. Regarding the first point, the Committee's terms of reference were fixed by the Government of India, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, for ready reference. The terms of reference are clear and it is felt that careful reading of them would dispel any doubts ~~and~~ that might have arisen. Regarding the second point, it will no doubt be realised that, in order to put in their proper perspective the points specifically mentioned in our terms of reference, information about the background and foreground would be appreciated.

"The Committee sincerely hopes that after this clarification, Messrs. Nair and Miglani would have no further difficulties in making available to the Committee such relevant information as might be in their possession.

Sd/- Shahnawaz Khan"

I feel that the issue of the assurances desired by you has now been resolved and I would appreciate early advice of the date and time that will be convenient for you to appear before the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

*A.K. Dar*  
( A.K. Dar )

Messrs. A.M. Nair & L.R. Miglani,  
C/o. Nair Restaurant,  
Tokyo.



56  
Tokyo, May 18, 1956

Shri A. K. Dar  
First Secretary  
Embassy of India  
Tokyo

Dear Shri Darji:

We thank you for your kind letter dated 17th. instant, inviting us to appear before the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Commission and give evidence to further the object for which it was set up by the Government of India.

We were definitely set to appear before the Commission for giving evidence but, unfortunately, certain things have happened since the Commission's arrival here which make us hesitant and take a second look. In particular, we wish to point out the Commission Chairman's interview which appeared in the Nippon Times dated May 9, 1956. We believe the Chairman's views in the said interview establish beyond doubt that he has preconceived notions about the whole Bose Case. We have therefore lost confidence in him.

We also believe the Commission's terms of reference for the Bose Enquiry are inadequate for a thorough enquiry.

Under the circumstances, we feel it will not be possible for us to appear before the Commission until and unless you or the Commission assure us on the following two points:

1. That the Commission is merely to record evidence and put same before the Government of India, without attaching its own formative opinions or conclusions. (We seek assurance on this point for obvious reason of our having lost confidence in the Chairman. You will realize that any conclusions drawn by the Chairman will be incorrect. We have no objection on this point if we are assured that the Government of India and/or Parliament draw conclusions from the evidence collected by the Commission).

2. That the Commission will record any evidence that may be well past or present and bears relation with the Netaji Case, and not just the "circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji from Bangkok about the 16th August 1945, his alleged death as a result of an/accident and subsequent developments connected aircraft therewith."

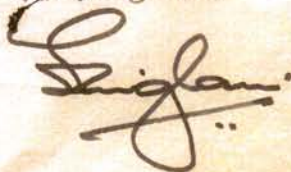
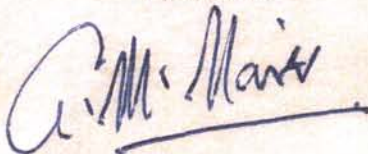
We are writing to you our joint reply although we received from you identical invitations to appear before the Commission individually. It is for the obvious reason of our joint stand taken after the Chairman's press interview. Our stand is widely known and undoubtedly to you and the Commission as well. For the purpose of record we enclose herewith a copy of the press interview which we gave on May 9, 1956, for the benefit of the Government and the people of India through the Indian press.

With many regards,

Yours sincerely,

A.M. Nair

L.R. Miglani





STATEMENT

We are greatly perturbed to read in today's (May 9, 1956) Nippon Times an interview given by Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan, Chairman of the Bose Inquiry Commission.

In it Mr. Khan is stated to have denied existence of valuable riches with Netaji Bose.

He is quoted to have said the socalled treasure which Netaji was "supposed" to have been carrying is a "myth."

It is evident from his interview that Mr. Khan has pre-conceived notions about the whole Bose case and it follows conclusively that collection of evidence by the commission in which he is chairman will certainly be farcical.

Mr. Khan's interview has come at a time when the committee has hardly started functioning since its arrival a few day ago.

We believe it is an attempt on Mr. Khan's part to discourage a thorough investigation into the links between the jewellery robbery and Bose mystery.

We have evidence which were ready to put before the committee to show that treasure has a vital link with the Bose case.

We now feel greatly reluctant to appear at all before the committee for evidence in view of Chairman's preconceived notions.

We also feel others who are greatly interested in clearing the Bose mystery for the good of Indo-Japanese relations may now feel compelled to stay away.

We feel Mr. Khan's unfortunate interview might have already done an irreparable dmage to the case of Indo-Japanese relations for the improvement of which many Japanese and Indians have been equally looking forward to the day when this Bose case is solved for the good of both nations.

We also regret reference of Mr. Shigemitsu and American occupation of Japan in Mr. Khan's interview. We think it is unfortunate and will stand in the way of good Indo-Japanese and Indo-American relations.

By his reference to Mr. Shigemitsu in his interview does Mr. Khan mean to say that the committee would not have been appointed if Mr. Shigemitsu was not the present Foreign Minister of Japan?

The whole interview of Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan as published in the Nippon Times today convinces us that he is unfit to preside over the historic commission and leaves us with no alternative but to demand of the Government and the people of India to recall Mr. Khan and replace him by a suitable personality.

(Note: Mr. Miglani, a long-term Indian resident, is now Foreign News Editor of the Asahi Evening News and held similar position successively for years with the Nippon Times. He actively participated in the long fight for Indian Independence.

(Mr.) L. R. Miglani  
(Mr.) A. M. Nair  
ex-chief officer with Japanese Army and Indian Independence League



No.

58  
May 17, 1956

Dear Mr. Nair/Miglaní

I enclose herewith copy of an appeal by the Chairman of the Netaji Enquiry Committee requesting for assistance in obtaining facts pertaining to the subject matter of the Enquiry. ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ I also enclose herewith the public announcement about the objective with which the Enquiry Commission has been set up by Government.

2. The Committee understands that irrespective of any public appeals that have been made for securing witnesses you have valuable information to give to the Commission to further the object with which it was set up. The Committee would appreciate if you could kindly make it convenient to appear before the Commission and give such evidence as you may consider appropriate at the earliest date possible. Kindly let me know the dates and times suitable to you which can then be finalised according to mutual convenience.

Yours sincerely,

*AKD*

( A.K.Dar )

1. Shri A.M. Nair,  
Proprietor,  
Nair Restaurant,  
Tokyo.
2. Shri L.R. Miglaní,  
Tokyo Hotel,  
Tokyo.



NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

ENQUIRY COMMISSION

\*\*\*\*\*

The Committee appointed by the Government of India to enquire into the last known phase of the activities of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, has arrived in Tokyo and has started its work. The Committee would welcome information on the subject of their enquiry from any member of the public. Such persons may kindly call in person or write to the Chairman of the Committee by the 15th of May 1956, at the Indian Embassy, Naigai Building, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Telephone number 23-1788.

Tokyo, Dated 7.5.1956.

(Shah Nawaz Khan)  
Chairman



In accordance with the wishes of the Commission expressed to me verbally last week I had approached Mr Nair & Mr Miglani to kindly come and give evidence on 18<sup>th</sup> May or other date mutually convenient. These persons met me three times since then but as of yesterday gave me no final and clear reply. I accordingly wrote to them formally for the record. The copy of my identical letter to Mr Miglani & Mr Nair & their joint, unusual, reply received today is placed below. The matter is for further consideration of the Commission.

AKS  
19/5/56

Chairman  
Metals Engineering Commission.

The Committee has read the letter from Messrs. Nair and Miglani, dated the 18th May 1956, and are glad to note that the two gentlemen would be willing to appear and testify before our Committee. Assurance has been asked for on two points. Regarding the first point, the Committee's terms of reference were fixed by the Government of India, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, for ready reference. The terms of reference are clear and it is felt that careful reading of them would dispel any doubts that might have arisen. Regarding the second point, it will no doubt be realised that, in order to put in their proper perspective the points specifically mentioned in our terms of reference, information about the background and foreground would be appreciated.

The Committee sincerely hopes that after this clarification, Messrs. Nair and Miglani would have no further difficulties in making available to the Committee such relevant information as might be in their possession.

Shri Dar.

Shah Nawaz Khan  
21-5-1956.



61

Terms of reference of the Netaji Enquiry  
Committee.

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"

To enquire into and to report to the  
Government of India on the circumstances concerning  
the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok  
about the 16th August 1945, his alleged death as a  
result of an aircraft accident and subsequent develop-  
ments connected therewith. "

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DRAFT.

The Committee has read the letter from M/s. Nair and Miglani, dated the 18th May 1956, and are glad to note that the two gentlemen would be willing to appear and testify before our Committee. Assurance has been asked for on two points. Regarding the first point, the Committee's terms of reference were fixed by the Government of India, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, for ready reference. The terms of reference are clear and it is felt that careful reading of them would dispel any doubts that might have arisen. Regarding the second point, it will no doubt be realised that, in order to put in their proper perspective the points specifically mentioned in our terms of reference, information about the background and foreground would be appreciated.

The Committee sincerely hopes that after this clarification, Messrs. Nair and Miglani would have no further difficulties in making available to the Committee such relevant information as might be in their possession.



63

Terms of reference of the Netaji Enquiry  
Committee.

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"

To enquire into and to report to the  
Government of India on the circumstances concerning  
the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok  
about the 16th August 1945, his alleged death as a  
result of an aircraft accident and subsequent develop-  
ments connected therewith. "

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24  
NEC File  
L 31/5/58  
Dear Sir:

I have read the article appeared in the Asahi Shimbun. I am not sure whether what I write here will be of any use to you, but I give you the following information:-

I was in Taihoku at the time of the accident. I heard that the plane carrying Mr. Bose crashed inside the Matsuyama Air Field. Mr. Bose who was injured/<sup>died</sup> after he was taken to a hospital. A talk by an intendent of the Airdrome was once carried in the Asahi Shimbun. So, I think he must have reported to you already. Jewels scattered in the Airdrome must have been collected with the help of girl students. Several years after the accident, the jewels were made the subject of sensational topics by Japanese press, but I did not read those papers.

Mr. Kan Suzuki, a friend of mine was arrested by Americans for the charge that he had something with the case, and I heard that his wife strived for realization of the release of her husband. But, I have had not time to hear about the matter in details.

You must have collected many information materials regarding the matter, but I shall be happy if mine will be of any help for you.

19th May 1956.

(KATSUZO TAKEMOTO)

To  
The Netaji Inquiry Committee.

2,801, Negishi, Kawaguchi-shi,  
Saitama-Ken. ~~Saitama~~

*Replied*  
**ISSUED**

1/6/56









東京部  
外に  
五段代  
田子  
丸

入込大使館

付一不民調査委員  
会



塔爾其(檀)根

三〇年根少年二〇一

竹本塔

五一九



Suresh C. Bose

Tokyo,

66

Dated 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1956.

Ref. ....

To Shri Shih Nawaz Khan, Chairman, Netaji Enquiry Committee.  
& Shri S. N. Maitre, D.C.S., Member, ditto.

Dear Sirs,

I regret you have not thought it proper to meet Mr. Thekin Nu & Dr. Ba Maw in Rangoon, as requested by me.

I have very recently been informed that Mr. N. Kitazawa, who was a Councillor in the Japanese Embassy at Rangoon during the last war, appears to have personal knowledge of the fact that Dr. Ba Maw, Mr. Thekin Nu & some other Ministers of Burma were given protection by the Japanese Government and removed to safer places at about the time of the surrender of Japan.

I, therefore, consider it very important to request Mr. Kitazawa to appear before us for having his statements recorded by us.

It is perhaps needless for me to state that Mr. Kitazawa's address may be obtained from the Foreign Office here and they may be requested to take all necessary steps for having Mr. Kitazawa before us.

I remain,

Yours truly

Suresh C. Bose

31. 5. 56

He may be requested to come on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 10 AM please, or at 2.30 PM.

Shahmuroff  
31.5.56



22  
1821  
I have been informed by the Japanese  
Foreign Office that Mr Takuzane cannot  
come to our Office. He may be prepared  
to meet the Committee in his chamber  
in the Parliament house.

Foreign Office have promised to let us  
the date & time suitable to him.

Frederick Douglass

1.6.88

II. The Committee met him in his chamber  
on 2.6.88. At 10.30 AM

for

2.6.88



Jib.      *Sw*      67  
23.5.88

Date: (Blank)

To:    The Chandra Bose Inquiry Committee,  
C/o Indian Embassy,  
Tokyo.

From:    (Blank)

Mr. Nakamiya ~~1321~~  
No.732, 2-chome, Shiota-machi,  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

Tel.No. 32-5756.

The above-mentioned person who had been  
a guard for Mr. Bose during his stay in Japan  
as an exile, might be knowing about the properties  
left by Mr. Bose. However, since it is a rumour,  
please forgive me if it is mistaken.

.....



郵便はがき



殿

ニャー・ノアス・カシ

カントラ・ボ・調査員 公

イン・ト・大使館内

子代 日 出 内 内 外 心 五 陽



Translate pl 68  
for 18.5.58.

其国谷通代田所 二の七三二

中宮氏 (32) 5756

右の方が、ホーエ代亡命の折、護衛し  
附いてゐられ、又同代死後の財産に附いて  
知つてゐるかもしれませんが、但し、これは風聞であ  
り、調査して居る場合には、惡くからず  
し、承下ふ。



ACH N/E  
Jib  
Su 69  
23.5.86

To: Mr. Shah Nowaz Khan,  
C/o Indian Embassy, Tokyo.

From: Sankatsu Kobayashi,  
Ochiai, Yamato-cho, Kurokawa-gun,  
Miyagi-Ken.

Dear Sir:

I welcome heartily the visit of your Enquiry Committee all the way from India. I am living in an ~~isolated~~ <sup>desolated</sup> country 500 kilo miles away from Tokyo. From an article appeared in the Asahi News Paper, I understand your Committee has come to Japan to investigate on the last moment of Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, patriot of your country. I had lived in Tokyo for 30 years and during 1918 - 1922 I was a taxi driver and an Indian gentleman got on my car several times.

Feeling very curious about him, I once tailed after him after he got off my car, although I had known it was very impolite. Then, he entered Nakamura in Shinjuku where I was told by a clerk of the shop that the gentleman was Mr. Chandra Bose. Mr. Masao Ohno, then Business Manager of the Taxi Company told me to exercise utmost care when he got on my car.

Under the situation, I would suggest you to get the address of Mr. Masao Ohno from his brother Mr. Banboku Ohno to find more details about Mr. Bose.

11th May 1956.

Faithfully yours,



おね 東京に浅草園街公け電報局を設けし一公の用意

大慶王様と交際す  
おね 東京に浅草園街公け電報局を設けし一公の用意  
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73  
File  
for 21.5.58

I furnish you with the following information regarding Mr. Chandra Bose;

It was before or after the 20th August 1956. I was at the Gannosu Air Base in Fukuoka-Ken. Our Unit was Air Information and ~~Correspondence~~ Communication Corps belonging to the Imperial H.Q. Army Aviation Security Force.

It was about the 20th of August that I heard the death of Mr. Bose of an accident. At about 10 a.m. a few days after that, an Indian officer and Japanese Army staff (Lt-Col. or Col) landed on the Airfield. The Indian officer looked seriously hurt with bandages bound round his head and several other places. The Japanese officer also looked injured.

The Indian officer had carried a box containing remains with no name on hung from his neck. He left the Airfield after about 10 minutes after drinking water at the Communication office there. He uttered no word then, but so far as I remember, I think he headed for Tachikawa Airfield. I remember a little the Indian Officer's physiognomy but I will not write about it here as the letter will become very long. I am sure Mr. Bose's remains hung from ~~his neck~~ ~~the neck of the Indian officer~~ the neck of the Indian officer was carried to Japan. There were some other luggages.

-----

To: Netaj Inquri Committee.

From: Keigo Ozawa,  
C/o Kokan Kogyo K.K.,  
Ikusaka-mura, Higashi Tsukuma-gun,  
Nagasaki-Ken.



Tyinderalhas の件について、情報では、その人か連絡がとれる

情報

昭和20年8月20日前後、思ひ、川を沿って、同様のガレキ飛行場  
に落ちた。川をの部隊は当時大車、陸軍航空隊、保安隊、及び  
航空情報通信隊で、

Boss の方が、臨んで事故のため死した。この情報得たのは8月  
20日前後、思ひ、それから3日後、思ひ、午前10時頃、ガレキ飛行  
場に、外人將校1名、日本軍(陸軍)参謀(大佐か中佐)1名、が着陸  
した。外人將校は、手頭等、数ヶ所に、ぶつかって、大々、負傷し  
て居た。日本人参謀も、負傷して居た。思ひ、

その時、外人將校は、無名、遺棄箱と首に、かけ、居た。通信所  
にて、水、その、10分、くらい、で、お茶、した。何の、連絡、も、なく、1言、も、お茶、を、  
お茶、した。其の、時の、記憶、では、川、飛行場、では、ある、か、思ひ、

尚、外人將校の、人相、等、少しは、記憶、に、あり、か、長く、あり、し、の、  
矢、誤、だ、思ひ、外人將校の、首に、かけ、られた、Boss の、遺棄、が、日本、  
の、事は、確、定、で、ある、他、に、又、何、か、あり、た、。又、と、参考、に、と



本日檢定

此紙係在麻部出產

銅管能蓋火火

(1) 銅管



東京都水田屋丸之内

内外五限ハート大旅館

ホム久調査事務所





76

Date (Blank)

To: Mr. Shar Nowaz Khan.

From: Ikeda Bunkashiryo Kenkyujo,  
119, 4-chome, Kishimachi,  
Urawa-City.

*File  
Ju 21. 58*

I think his last photo was taken on the occasion of the Convention for Unification of the Greater Asia on the 7th November 1943. It was on August 25 1945 that I heard of Mr. Bose's death. At that time, newspapers in London carried the article on the first pages and his former secretary Purin Shir was quoted as saying that he could hardly believe it. Big Indian shops in the city observed holiday on the day.

Ikeda Bunkashiryo Kenkyujo,  
No.119, 7-chome, Kishi-cho,  
Urawa City.

To  
Mr. Shar Nowaz Khan,  
C/o Indian Embassy, Tokyo.







郵便はがき

77

東京、中央郵便局へ

丸の内

内外ビル五階

イント大英館

和歌山県立中央図書館

シヤーン・ノアズ・アイン・ライオンズクラブ

14 May

和歌山市岸町七百九



Transcribed by

池田文化史料研究所

池田文庫蔵

△ 和歌山県立中央図書館

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和歌山県立中央図書館



The writer of this letter refers  
to treasure only. As we have  
much concerned with the details  
of same, this may be kept filed  
for future reference, when the  
question of treasure comes up.

S. C. Koon  
15: 5: 56

*File in U.S. & Sub.*  
15: 5: 56  
Sri S. C. Koon } & Rec  
May 12, 1956: S. C. Koon

No action.

*Sum*  
15/5

Dear Sir:

We Japanese are very grateful for your kind visit  
to Japan for investigation regarding the late Mr. Chandra  
Bose who devoted his energies for the sake of your country.

I heartily support the mission of your Inquiry  
Committee and I shall be very happy if my private information  
will be of any use to you.

A brief personal record in respect of myself is:-

Permanent Domicile: No.277, Noda, Noda-Shi, Chiba-ken.

Present Address: -do-.

Name: Noboru Shibasaki. Born on August 16, 1920.

School Education: Left Prefectural Higashi Katsushika  
Middle School half way.

Experiences: Employed by a private firm (Assembling of  
precision apparatus; Labor affairs, &  
Accounting)

Journalist of locals (daily & weekly)

Special career: Received short course of book-keeping.

Military service: Conscript reserve service, belonging  
to Infantry Automobile Equipments and  
Supplies Corps.

.....

#### Outline of Information

About 1940, the eldest daughter of Mr. Ito, owner  
of Café "Enraku" in our city (her name and date of birth are  
under investigation) had lived at Mr. Soma's (master of  
the Nakamura-ya at Shinjuku, Tokyo) as manners learning maid  
and looked after the colored man.

Her father is dead but her mother and brothers and  
sisters are alive and well. They are quoted as saying to  
Mr. Toragoro Tofuya (40), beef shop owner <sup>in their</sup> in her neighbor-  
hood (my acquaintance and at present employed by the Noda  
Hospital as driver) ~~xx~~ that he had possessed enormous amount  
of gold coins and jewels at that time.

I am not living in Tokyo (2 hours' ride by train from  
the center of Tokyo). I know it is too much to ask you for  
this, but I shall be grateful if you will kindly give me a  
reply with transportation charge enclosed, <sup>before the 15th,</sup> in case I am  
wanted for interview with you for more details in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

To: Chairman, Netaj Subash  
Chandra Bose Inquiry Committee.

From: NOBORU SHIBASAKI  
No.277, Noda, Noda-  
City, Chiba-Ken.



謹啓 新緑の日本に公私共に御繁忙のさう御国の爲  
 盡心されし故にヤンドラボース殿の御調査に御来朝致され  
 幸に私事我々曰本国民として心より厚く御禮を言ひます  
 感謝にたへません次第で有ります。

御調査団の使命に対し心より賛同致し、所り私個人、  
 情報にても幾分なりとも資料を参考と相成ります。此等其  
 存じ星書致す次第なりと御裁許被下度御願ひ申上ります。  
 私人の略しを記載せしめます。

一 本籍地 千葉縣野田市中野田ニセテ育地

一 現住所 同上

一 氏名 及生年月日 柴崎 登 大正九年八月十六日生

一 学歴 縣立東葛飾中学校中退

一 職歴 民間會社に勤務(精密組長、労務會計)

一 地方新聞記者 (日刊週刊)

一 特長 以該誌特別講学修了證交付

一 兵役 補充兵役 陸軍歩兵自動車整備要員



情報概略

昭和三十一年頃、市中（現住）リツ、馬、燕、樂、伊東家長世（氏名、生年月日  
調査中）新宿中村屋、主人宅、相馬家に行儀見習せ中として、  
本宅に住、黒人の御附として勤めた事実有り、実父は死亡、母新及  
弟妹は健康に、近隣の牛肉店主、東風、谷虎五郎、四女（現在野田  
病院、抱負、自動車運転手として私の知人）に語り、言葉によれば、其の時  
莫大な宝、石及金貨と持って居つた、私は傳へ聞きます。

私は都内居住せず、都内（近郊）三時、四時の距離に居んで居り  
右御報告の件に付、詳細御調査の爲に付、お合せ、並に御指示の  
事、御有りと存じます、故、二十五日前に、誠に厚かましく、き勝手  
なる御願ひなかり、交通費、御下附の上、出頭、日帰、御返信、被下度  
右断文、私筆なかり、御報知、謹言。

昭和三十一年五月十二日

敬具

ネタジ、スバス、ナヤンドラ、ボース調査委員会  
委員長 シヤーノアズ、カーン

敬

102

右

柴崎

登

102-17 mada, mada city, Chitabon.  
Mabari, Chitabon.



Jib  
Su 21.5.56

With reference to the public notice appeared in the Asahi Shimbun regarding Mr. Chandra Bose,\* I furnish you with the following information:-

I was a radio operator belonging to the Aviation Group of the Army Airforce Superintendent-General's Department. But, I had been enlisted in the army in Burma at the time of the accident of Mr. Bose.

1. ~~I am told that~~ I heard that Mr. Bose took a plane belonging to the Aviation Group. The base of the Aviation Group was in Tachikawa ~~and~~ at that time and then it was shifted to Tokorozawa after some time.

2. It was reported that the plane crashed on the ground soon after it took off at the Taihoku Airfield. Mr. Shogoro Tanaka at No.1741/<sup>2-chome, Ohkawamae, Sekiya, Niigata.</sup> who was on duty as guard for the Airfield must be knowing the condition at the time of the accident.

3. One of the senior members of the Aviation Group at that time is

(Major) Sakai, at 296, Hiyoshimachi,  
Tokorozawa City.

4. More information of the matter may be obtained from Mr. Yoshimasa Hazama, C/o Futaba Denki Shokai, at No.141~~xx~~, Amanuma, Suginami-ku, Tokyo and Mr. Katsu Ichimura, C/o Keibibu Tsushinka of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Board who were in the Aviation group at that time and who gave me the information about the accident after I ~~came back~~ was repatriated from Burma.

I shall be very happy if the above information will be of some help for you.

12th May, 1956.

(SHOJI ODA)  
C/o Kohmin Jutaku, No.2, Kamiyama-  
cho, Kochiya-City, Niigata-Ken.

My place of employment:-  
X-ray room at Kochiya Sanatorium,  
Kochiya-City.

To Mr. Shar Nowaz Khan,  
C/o Indian Embassy,  
Tokyo.



朝日新聞紙上に於ける千ヤレドろ、ホース氏の公示につ  
き、知る処を連絡し、多分、為時、小生、

陸軍航空総監部飛行班に学、疎通信士として在籍  
但し、ホース氏事故為時はヒルマに在籍中、

一、ホース氏は航空総監部飛行班所屬機に塔乗、小川

大園（総監部飛行班は十八年末改為時は、立川が基地

その後所沢に移転し、陸軍飛行班に改名とか。）

二、台地飛行場にて離陸し、直に墜落の由、

為時飛行場放棄済み、又、現在所、新潟市

南屋大川、二、一七回一回中、石田部氏が若

干為時の機を知らず、ある等

三、為時飛行班幹部の一人

現、所沢市日吉町二九六、酒井（少佐）



四馬路飛行班に在航せるもの、内

一、東京都府並区天沼一四一五東京電気商会、岡義正

二、警視庁、警備部通信課、板倉、市村勝

以上の人物より何か情報を得るものと思ふ

一、高小生、ピルマより渡員後、以上諸氏より

リ、ホース氏、台並に於ける事故を聞えたるものとする

右資料の一端に於ける事とす

九月十三日

新潟県小千谷市上山町二  
公民住宅

磯田正治

勤務先

国立小千谷療養所 文線室





世界郵便通入号記

インド大使館  
エタノール・アタカ

東京都子付同区  
内丸の内

敬

附



青十石

張

同

正

治

新陽東小山谷市上山所二  
公民住宅



A. SETH.

Telephone: Nishinomiya 4506

73, Aioicho. Nishinomiya-shi.  
Hyogoken. JAPAN.

Shri. A. K. Dar,  
First Secretary,  
Embassy of India,  
Tokyo.

Dear Mr. Dar,

I thank you very much for your letter of May 18, but regret to inform you that since Shri. Jayaswal left for India, I seldom get time to take even my lunch. Owing to heavy pressure of works, I am sorry, I cannot leave Osaka at present.

Hoping to be excused for my inability to appear before the Enquiry committee.

Is there any possibility of the committee-members coming down here to see Kobe, Nara and Kyoto? If so, please let me know.

JAIHIND.

Yours sincerely,

A. Seth

for further consideration  
date of reply to be given.  
Chairman  
Nishinomiya Enquiry Commission  
J.C. Hon  
25.5.56

Recd  
29/5/56

85

It the other  
2 members of the 15 to 15 Kobe, I shall  
gladly go there. S.C. Hon  
26.5.56

24th May, 1956.

Perused the writer's previous letter to us  
of 16.5.56. In view of the statements made by  
him therein, I am of opinion that he should be  
examined. J.C. Hon  
26.5.56

II. Will you please indicate the date the  
writer you are going to Kobe.  
J.C. Hon  
26.5.56



86  
No. ~~A-5(4)1000-1~~

the May 18th, 1956.

No. ~~F-1(8)/56-181~~

Dear Mr. Seth,

With reference to your letter of 16th May, 1956, to Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan, I am desirous to inform you that the Netaji Enquiry Committee shall be glad if you would kindly appear to give evidence on May 23rd or 24th, 1956, as convenient to you. I shall appreciate if the date and time suitable to you is notified to me soon.

Yours sincerely,

Rtd  
(A.K. Dar)

Shri. A. Seth,  
73, Aioicho, Nishinomiya-shi,  
Hyogoken, Japan.

Issued.  
18/5/56.



67

May 15, 1956.

To: Netaj Inquiry Committee.

From: Komatsu, C/o Mitsui,  
1-273, Gotanda, Shinagawa-ku,  
Tokyo.

I was in Taihoku after the War, and I knew from the Taiwan Nichinichi Shimbun that a plane carrying Mr. Bose crashed on the ground soon after it took off at the Matsuyama Airfield in Taihoku and that Mr. Bose died.

It was before the Chinese Army occupied Formosa.

I think you had better ask newsmen at that time.

-----

*File*  
*in*  
*21.5.56.*



小生は終戦后台北に在るが同地の  
台湾日々新聞が報じたること  
台北松山飛行場に離陸直后ボーイス  
機乗りの軍用機が墜落し死傷した  
とあった。之は中国軍が台湾に進駐す  
る以前の事である。  
當時の新聞社員に当ってみては如何



日本郵便

郵便はがき

15.5.56

31.5.14

8-12



品

五月田

1~273

小松

三井内

イレド大使館  
ネタジ・スバス・チャンドラ・ボース  
調査委員会  
御中

十代田五丸の内

内外ビル

五階

差出上の注意 このはがきは12月14日以前、1月11日以後に差し出すときは  
1円切手をはり足して下さい。年賀状として差し出すときも同様です。  
抽せん日 昭和31年1月15日 賞品お渡し 昭和31年1月20日から 最寄りの郵便局で  
和 31年7月19日まで  
寄附金額 1円 寄附を受ける団体 中央共同募金会及び日本赤十字社

(061組)

昭和31年  
お年玉

104740



A. SETH.

Telephone: Nishinomiya 4506

Chairman, Shah Nawaz Khan,  
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose,  
Enquiry Commission.

Embassy of India,  
Naigai Building,  
Marunouchi,  
Tokyo.

Dear Sirs,

I am in Japan since last 25 years and I know something about the sad incidents relating to the death of our late Netaji.

Just after the end of the world War II a British warship came to Japan on which Col. Figgis and Mr. Bahadur Singh (he is now in foreign service in New Delhi. At that time he was with B.B.C) also came. We met them here in Kobe and Bahadur Singh stayed with me, because there was no hotel accommodations, in those days. I had a talk with Col. Figgis who want to Formosa purposely to ascertain the death of our Netaji. He was however convinced about the death of Netaji. The peoples who are circulating the false news in India that they are in correspondence with Netaji and seen him here and there are just doing this for their selfish purpose I think. There is not the slightest truth in it. Netaji died in plane crash and there is no doubt about this sad incident.

I am from Calcutta and since my youth I know our Netaji, his family and nodoubt his well-known brother Sri, Sarat Ch. Bose too. Netaji was like a tiger and not a coward to hide anywhere and for any reasons whatsoever it may be. The peoples who are circulating false stories about him are just blotting Netaji's name and reputation.

Now after the war one Mr. Rama Murti came down to Kobe as assistant to Col. Figgis. During the war he was informer to Japanese army about the activities of Indians and after the war he renewed his business, but on behalf of British. He is the man who got the Jewelleries from the Japanese army and afterwards became quite a rich man, by selling the jewelleries

*Mr. Das may please be requested  
to write to him to appear before  
us 23rd or 24th*

*He may be requested to appear*

*before us S.C. Am  
18.5.56*

73, Aioicho. Nishinomiya.  
Hyogoken. JAPAN.

*done with copy  
of letter before  
19/5* 16th May, 1956.

*Sy*  
19.5.56

*Sensu  
S.C. Am  
26.5.56*



slowly. When he came down to Kobe with Col. Figgis, he was a sickly looking thin man and penniless. At that time, I gave him ¥5000/- when he asked a loan from me. I became suspicious when he presented two pieces of diamonds to the wife of his brother when he got married. I knew his position and how on earth he can present diamonds. When I met him after some time, I could not recognize him. He became so fat.

When Mr. Ratnam came here as first secretary he was inquiring about the missing jewelleries through some Japanese, who happened to be my friends. They asked me if I know anything about this affair. I told them what I knew, but afterwards I saw Mr. Ratnam in company with Mr. Murti several times. Evidently they became intimate friends.

After a few years Mr. Rama Murti left for India when he was having troubles with the Japanese police, most probably for black market dealings.

This is all I know about the death of our Netaji and his jewelleries.

It would be great pleasure to meet the Chairman and Netajis brother In Kobe where the majority of Indians reside.

JAIHIND.

Yours very truly,





NEC. Jila  
the has nothing relevant  
place for 1555  
16, Kanitakao Tomioka city.  
Gumma Pref.

May 14th, 1956

Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan  
Chairman of N.S. Chandra Bose  
Enquiry Commission

Dear sir:

I am a teacher at Tomioka Higashi high school (girls').

When I was in Tokyo (I was born in Tokyo and came here Tomioka city about eleven years ago) I had several friends of India and the best of them was Mr. Rama Murti. He was the president of the League of Independence of India (Indo Dokuritsu Renmei).

I have been interested in Indian culture, I had worked with him to introduce Indian culture and affairs to Japanese people.

As the war grew keen he worked very very hard, inspite of his severe asthma, for the Independence of his country. His asthma was so severe that he very often could not sleep, but he continued to work bravely in speeches, gatherings, meetings, broadcasting at midnight and etc.



As a friend of his I helped him with translation work into Japanese, and I always was with him, and went to almost all places he went.

When Mr. N. S. Chandra Bose came to Tokyo Mr. Murti brought Mr. Bose's manuscript of the Declaration of Provisional Government of India (Indo Kariseifu Juritsu Sengen Sho), I started at once translate it into Japanese language and announced to the public.

General meeting of the Nations of all Asia was given by General Tojo (then Premier) at Hitigay park, and there Mr. Bose introduced the members of his cabinet, I was there, too, with Mr. Murti and other Indian friends, I don't remember exactly, but Mr. Wanlei Wei of China and late President of Philippine and other high officials were there.

On Mar. 10th, 1945 my house in Tokyo was burned down by the great air raid (the biggest) when I was in the General Staff Office (I was then attached to it as an instructor) and all the materials about were lost and nothing left except the lives of my family.

I moved here Tomioka with the troop I belonged and I have not seen Mr. Murti for more than ten years, but I am sure



He lives in Tokyo, Asagaya near Nakano (the western part of Tokyo) with Mrs. Murti (who is a Japanese woman) and probably still possesses the material about Mr. Bose.

He knows very well all about his staying in Tokyo and others.

I have now only one copy of Pancha Tantra (I translated it into Japanese language and the then famous publisher 'Modern Nihon' or 'Shin Taiyo Sha' published it with many illustrations drawn by a well-known artist for children's books).

I translated most of Mr. Bihari Bose's speeches during war time into Japanese.

Hoping your success in the Enquiry

Yours Truly

Kazuo Hirano



NE  
15

THE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - JAPAN

CIRCULAR NO: 110

KOBE: May 11, 1956

I M P O R T A N T

The President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce - Japan has received a letter dated May 9, 1956 from the First Secretary, Embassy of India in Japan, which reads as follows:-

Dear Sir,

In enclosing herewith the appeal for public cooperation issued by the Chairman of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Enquiry Commission I am desirous to request you to be good enough to circulate the contents thereof to the members of the Indian Community residing in your area in order that any member of the community who has information on the subject matter with which the Commission is concerned should feel free to communicate with the Commission.

It is possible that there might be some members of the community who are known to the Embassy or to the Commission who may have valuable information to assist in the subject enquiry. It is, therefore, requested that the matter may kindly be given as much publicity amongst the members of the Indian Community as is possible.

Yours faithfully,

(A.K. Dar)  
First Secretary

To: The President  
Indian Chamber of Commerce, Japan  
KOBE

-----  
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose  
Enquiry Commission

The Committee appointed by the Government of India to enquire into the last known phase of the activities of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, has arrived in Tokyo and has started its work. The Committee would welcome information on the subject of their enquiry from any member of the public. Such persons may kindly call in person or write to the Chairman of the Committee by the 15th of May, 1956, at the Indian Embassy, Naigai Building, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Telephone number 28-1788.

Tokyo, Dated 7.5.1956.

(Shah Nawaz Khan)  
Chairman

-----  
Sahjram A. Thani,  
Hon. Secretary



Mr. Dobashi, Yomiuri Shimbun, informed us by telephone telling that he has received a request from a physician Mr. Bin Watanabe, No. 1184 - 2 Honcho Funabashi-City Chiba-Prefecture. (Tel. Funabashi-2932) to the effect that he served as a surgeon during the war attached to the Military Hospital in Taihoku Formosa where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was brought in and he watched his death. He has, therefor, some materials regarding his death and would like to offer them to the Inquiry Commission.

*GR*  
*14/5/56*

*He may be called on any convenient date*

*Yes, please*  
*J.C. - Bm*  
*14.5.56*

*14 5 56*



Date (Blank)

Dear Sir:

With reference to the article regarding the late Mr. Chandra Bose appeared in the Mainichi Shimbun, I am pleased to inform you as follows:-

I knew of his death of accident when I was in the Army Hospital in Taihoku (the end of August or the beginning of September). I carried a big box (twice as big as ordinary Japanese one) in the motor-car headed for the incinerating place( crematory ? ).

As for me, I did not see the dead body, but was told that it was his. You may be able to find the surest thing through investigation of the <sup>Army</sup>surgeants at that time. The hospital was the Taihoku Army Hospital.

*He may be requested to  
appear before us S.C. Am  
19.5.26*

( MASAO MIYOSHI )  
No. 36, Gogatsu-cho,  
Fukushima-City.

To  
Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan.



前略

毎日新聞紙で拜見致しましてヤン・ドウ・ボース氏  
 の牛乳について新加坡の陸軍病院に居た時  
 丁重氏の事故死を知り一月末の九月始めと  
 思いました。病室より焼却場へ行く自動車  
 まがし大きな相口（重さ）の口を失うものの二週りは  
 大きな（？）も運んだ経験がありませう  
 新加坡の死体を見つけたのは、人にこの死体は  
 ヤン・ドウ・ボース氏のものであつたこと、聞かされたわけ  
 で、その軍医を調査すれば一歩の確実なことが判ると  
 思ふます。一応、内務省に申し上げます。  
 病院は、台北陸軍病院です。

福島市五月町三丁目

三好正親

シャール・カール様



昭和

年

月

日

福島市  
三好

氷

有限公司

瀧

田

藥

局

藥品一般 醫療保健用品  
衛生材料 度量衡計量器

郡山市本町五十三番地  
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若松連絡所 会津若松市駅前(電十四三)  
取引銀行 東邦銀行 振替 東京 七郡 八山 一交 二店

Shah Nawaz Khan





東京都子代田区丸の内  
内務省  
ビル  
5階

インド大使館  
調査委員会

ニヤールズカーン

様へ



rec. 97  
15.5.88

Information obtained from the Osaka Branch of the  
Chubu Nippon Press

Mr. Hidezo Sasaki, former Lt.-Col. of Japanese Army (now residing at Yatasumi-dori, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka) who had been always with Mr. Bose as a staff of the "Hikari-Kikan" or Hikari Secret Service which maneuvered towards India from 1943 to 1945 and in whom Mr. Bose placed much confidence said as follows:-

"It is just like an idea that Yoshitsune of Japan must have escaped from Japan to become Genghis Khan of Mongolia to think that Mr. Bose must be alive somewhere, because people of India expect so much from the hero. I firmly believe that he died of an accident, not of a plot."

.....

The above information was supplied by:-

Mr. K. Hori,  
Foreign News Section,  
Tokyo Bureau,  
The Chubu Nippon Shimbun,  
No.22, 2-chome, Uchisaiwai-cho,  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo.

Sr. S.C. Bose } to see. I don't think it is necessary  
" S.N. Martha } to call this witness. Su 15.5.88

The writer firmly believes that Netaji died of an accident & not of a plot. As the idea of "plot" has been suggested by 1 or 2 gentlemen already examined & as the reflection arising from same is not at all a happy one, this gentleman may be examined, as it may help us in getting over the "plot" affair.

S. C. Bose  
15.5.88

I agree with the chairman.  
Su 17.5.88



# MEMO

FROM

TO

This might interest -  
the Committee - Mr Rahman  
may kindly bring it to  
the notice of the Chairman

Ali  
14/5



TEL. (59) 0171  
0181

K. H O R I

FOREIGN NEWS SECTION  
TOKYO BUREAU  
THE CHUBU-NIPPON SHIMBUN

NO. 22, 2-CHOME, UCHISAIWAI-CHO, CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO



外信部

堀

健

三

中部日本新聞社東京支社

東京都千代田区内幸町二ノ三  
電話代表局〇一七一・〇一八二番  
本社 名古屋市中区御幸本町通二ノ二四



中部日本新聞社大阪支社の情報

十八年より二十年までドイツ工作を行つた、かつこの

光機関の参謀としてたえず、木ノ下氏の身辺に

あり。同化から信賴をされてゐたといわれる。之中佐

佐々木三氏、大阪市住吉区矢田住通り、ハハ

木ノ下氏は何処から出てゐる、といふのは日本の義士が

當時日本から逃れて、チンギスカンと稱つた、といふこと、これに於て

英雄によせる、ドイツ国民の期待、たゞ、謀略による死

七、では、何く、事故死に因違ひ、何といふ、私に思ふ。

4



*Examinined*

Date (Blank)

*99*  
*7.5.58*

I should like to explain about the actual condition of the last moment of Mr. Chandra Bose. I belonged to Formosa 136 Interception Force and was on duty as a guard for Matsuyama Air Base in Taihoku.

Although Yomiuri Shimbun is carrying an article that I am prepared to give evidence on the matter, I think the wording is not quite correct.

As for me, if I am allowed to, I should like to see his brother and others to explain in detail the actual condition at that time.

Sd/-

KATSUO SATO

To

The Embassy of India in Japan.

*He may be examined. his statement may  
please be informed.*

*Katsu Sato*  
*7.5.58*

*He will be coming to Tokyo, if at all possible,  
on the morning of 16th May - to give evidence. This  
will be confirmed further by the Gaimusho.*

*7.5.58*  
*9.7*



Translation from the Yomiuri Shimbun

"I AM PREPARED TO GIVE EVIDENCE ON CHANDRA BOSE'S LAST MOMENT", SAYS MR.SATO.

It is reported that an Indian Investigation Mission including Subas Chandra Bose's brother is visiting Japan in connection with divided opinions on the death of Mr. Bose, patriot for India's independence who died of airplane accident on the 17th August 1945 immediately before the termination of the last war.

An ex-sailor of the defunct Japanese Navy in our Prefecture who was on the spot of the crashed airplane and took Mr. Bose to a hospital who had been covered with flames says he is prepared to give evidence for the Investigation Mission.

He is Mr. Katsuo Sato (35), fish peddler at No.59, Irimae, Utatsu-mura, Motoyoshi-gun who had been on duty as a guard for Matsuyama Airfield at that time. He is quoted as saying:-

At about 7 a.m. on the 17th August 1945, a twin-engined army raider '96' which took off from the Airfield heading toward north, crashed on the railway as its engine suddenly stopped and blew out fire. When Mr. Sato and two others rushed to the spot, one of the crews of the plane asked us to rescue Japanese Lt.-General and Mr. Bose out of the plane. Then, they rescued from it two Indians who looked high rank officers covered with flames and then, took them to a hospital in an ambulance car.

-----  
Mr. Sato says: "I have read the article appeared in the Yomiuri dated the 17th. As for me, I have seen the site of the crashed plane and I think there is no mistake in our carrying out Mr. Bose covered with flames. I understand his brother and Party is visiting Japan, and am prepared, if necessary, to explain them on the actual condition in details. I have no idea about the reported jewels etc."

---



Mr. K. In Translation  
5/5/66

私は知っているチャンドウホーノ氏の  
最後の真相をつぶさに申し述べたい  
と思っております。

私は当時、海一三、防衛隊として  
北松山飛行場警戒員として

勤務して、  
新聞残土を証言、私は聞達と思っております

詳細な事は、あつた接見、皆様と  
あ会し、当時状況をお話をしなると

思っております。  
此の新聞は、讀賣新聞です。

駐日イェンド 大俣館殿 本々





「証言をする」と佐藤さん



鐵戰直後の  
壬午八月  
十七日、台  
湾へ飛出  
事故のため  
船の底に  
ス氏の存  
在が  
ホーランドの  
乗客アーレン・サント・ホー  
ス氏の質問に答へて  
らているが、飛行機が墜落した  
現場に居合わせ、火たるまゝに  
ホーランドへ運び、病院に収めし  
た百十名乗客が本館におり、  
調査のため証人となつてしま  
つてゐる。この人は本居邸

二十八年八月十七日朝に晴る。同  
飛は島から機曾を北の方に向け  
て飛んだ。数羽九、十羽の五  
エ、ミエが突然停止し火をう  
て銃道線に沿って墜落した。佐藤  
さんが同じ二人で現場にたつて  
ばたき、陸軍の一乗隊風が  
「この飛行機は日本の航空司令  
の中將で、イノのホース氏が  
乗っているから助けくれ」と  
いうので來する陸軍機からま  
さにガソリンをあげ火をまき  
なしている。陸軍將校といふ人  
のイノ人を救出して敵軍車  
病院に収容したという。  
佐藤さんの話「十七日の機光  
暗くなったが當時を知るわたくし

—NHKテレビ—

1. 30	英国「エー州」(映画)	千原しのぶ
0. 15	ヴァリエーション	千原しのぶ
1. 1. 0	六大学野球 法政対東大	中野実
5. 00	歌謡「月夜」中継	中野実
5. 30	京都「越前」中継	中野実
5. 30	郷土クイズ 西川貞美	中野実
7. 30	「天助と白雲の道」	中野実
7. 30	かつは川太郎 清水	中野実
30	新映画「赤穂城」片岡千恵蔵	片岡千恵蔵
25	月形竜之助、山田五十鈴	山田五十鈴
25	ニュース・タイムズ	ニュース・タイムズ

ことばに書かれた文字は、火たる  
 事となつたやうに燃え出しま  
 しては消滅しないと思つていま  
 す。諸君はそれをどうぞ考へ  
 必死ならん直接おぼしき時の快  
 楽をどうぞ申上げなさいと聞  
 いては、諸君願ひのことは知らな  
 い

氣仙岩窟(21頁)  
總水邊(二)四四四武  
ヌハチ 1000—1111 ヲル ヲル—武  
キハタ 1000—1111 マ カル—武  
ヌカカ 1000—1111 ヲル ヲル—武  
ヌカカ 1000—1111 イ カル—武

更に夜襲を以て、冬はコ  
 ツをばこて網しまれる虞  
 のつに將兵がある。各國  
 をテスがあつて盛へたが  
 國の將領には及ばない。今  
 度の第人明東北將領名人殿に  
 誓約書ごとく來仙した故口人  
 殿も、東北ノ領でコマを手に  
 する人々は百万人は手  
 らないといひた。輝  
 石名人位は舊手の高橋四  
 段が獲得したが、大会の  
 盛況を多きものぞの薩民  
 皆がうらやむ。

今工員を生かすために、  
 る小さい工場で若い工員たち  
 が外出し困るので、職業選  
 びと将来を母としたところ、  
 外出がとりとまっていたとい  
 う話もある。最近工員があれは  
 いっぱい出てきている、金も  
 かからないところ、国民性が  
 あるといふ。昼休み、機  
 場は会社と官庁をばしめ、飛  
 取りの手など、仕事の合間の  
 一時を楽しくして、いふまでも

1500枚送  
宮城支局  
日、漁業振興  
ついでに余剰漁産物を賣付け  
て給ふ  
―日、交渉代表  
(仙台・灯台へ)

**天気予報** 〔きょう〕 朝は、  
東寄りの風、薄曇り。  
から次第に天気くずれ、夜通くに  
はときどき雨が降る。(気温) 最低  
三度、最高十五度、霜のおりる  
恐れがある。  
〔あす〕 東寄りの風はじめ小雨の  
降るところもあるが、西の風にか  
わり天気回復。

果まじり重畳なる。

◆身は強や右など立派  
 大勢を待望も容易でないが  
 その意味は万事手懸にき  
 ている。豊にそこめられた  
 山奥でも、汽車の中でもは  
 ばど感ずすにやれる風情的  
 スポットだ。名人戦の類ふ  
 をぐも高松政良、昌子、商人  
 氏盛さんと名聞から離は  
 れきとおり会社重視と  
 か各界名士ばかりの集  
 はれ姿は対照的である。  
 ◆広域的には勝負の尾  
 となつて財産をなくした  
 り、血をみだなどの話も  
 あるが、現代はそんな話

御はなむらう青年たちの足  
から散る雪といふ。いふと  
の大会は地区予選から県予選  
といふところまで行なわれ  
た。ななめ参加者は二十名を越  
えてゐる。年間を押し半分以  
上練習をしたといふゆゑにい  
ふ所の國に明るい輝きを生  
じしところに入つてゐる。来  
年とてはもういふに及ばぬ。

◎安い費用(東京の2/3) 短期養成 全二ヶ月養成会卒業  
 二創立 神奈川自動車学校 小規模十五名制自習付  
 学費前30日 横浜市神奈川区磯貝目黒駅前(磯貝駅南口より徒歩5分)

市川に生れた、縁の仲間、の檀樹式

市川市の小中学校十二校が参加してこのほど誕生した学校種別。通学区域は十一月廿二日午前十一時から市川市清蔵北公園下前田開会。主催代表二百三十名をばらばらに市川、東林、鶴岡、長代理市川、林、鶴岡、市川、PTAなど学校種別。約一千名が集まり行われ、午後一時から同所七時までピカミツ。二百三十本を植えた。

これは古川市十日町佐々木川  
 堤まが十町を古川市に委  
 託するの件(グリーン・  
 ベルトゾーン)で、四十五  
 年までは稲畑の収益八百七十五  
 万円を算み、その四五%を十  
 町所有の佐々木川緑地会へ  
 寄付し、四五%を古川市の

育費にあることになっており、残り五町歩にも引續いて樹林、各学校が交代で管理する。



【写真は吉川の小中學生の植樹】

[illegible]



NEC. Jib.  
102  
Su 6.5.56

CODE USED:  
NEW BOE  
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# MITSUMI STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

## MITSUMI LINE

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MIIKE MOJI MURORAN NAGOYA NIIGATA OSAKA  
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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS  
"MITSUMI LINE"  
AT ALL JAPANESE PORTS  
TEL. (24) 0151, 7981

May 4, 1956

Major General Shaw Nawaj Khan  
Mr. Sri Suresh Chandra Bose,  
at Imperial Hotel, Tokyo

Dear Sirs,

We are eagerly looking forward to your  
arrival here safe and sound.

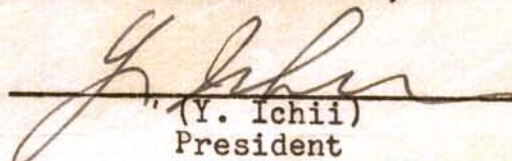
The English shorthand-typist whose service  
you were seeking through Mr. Naresh Nath Mookerjee,  
is ready to start working for you any moment.

While we are anxious to do anything to  
facilitate your activities here and to make your stay  
in Japan as comfortable as possible.

While you want our services and cooperation,  
please ring us up at telephone (24) 3822.

Yours very truly,

MITSUMI STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

  
(Y. Ichii)  
President



(private letter)

(1)

103

المعالي

My dear General Sahab!

I am very glad to learn your whereabouts now. Recently I came across a column in the news paper that says that you are leaving for Japan shortly for an enquiry after the Disappearance of our beloved Netaji (May he rest in peace); and I wish you good luck in the happy and holy task.

I was anxiously waiting for a chance of talks with you, but for the present & for reasons inconvenient I am not in a position to do so. You may not, in general, recognise me as I was not well acquainted to you while in Singapore or in the fighting area (i.e. in Manipur), but in one particular occasion I may well be recollected. I am that jawan of Manipur whose witness statement was once examined by the I.N.A. Defence Committee for your defence purpose during the Red Fort Trial. You often called me a "Mullaaji" seeing my beard which I preserved while in the Red Fort-Custody. I well remember the occasion that a group of your family members came inside the Fort & met you there. I also well remember <sup>the clash</sup> ~~that~~ between Dhillan Sahab and the British guard while you (three) were being escorted to the Military Court inside the Fort. As for myself I saw you in many occasions in Singapore & Burma. I remember the occasions that our batch, while moving for Bishenpur Front & making a halt near a river in Kalamyo due to a fear of <sup>enemy</sup> time-bombs, was overcame by you.

As for Col. Stracy Sahab and others they knew me well. After your release we were put together at <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ Camp.

P.S.



10h  
outside the Red Fort. By that time Col. Stracey Sahab, by way of encouragement before the high officials of our Fough, introduced me, saying, "He is a Manipuri Jawan of our Army & who, for the Cause of Mother India, came across his own village at Imphal leaving his near & dear ones uninformed" etc etc.

Please know that I was an officer of the Intelligence Group (I.N.A.) & was sent to <sup>the</sup> Bishenpur Front under Lt/Col. Sonkat Ali Mullik Sahab, the of the Int. Gp. Please also know that I am a native of this land of Manipur; & my home is at Imphal only a few miles from Moirang & Bishenpur where I mainly worked incessantly nights & days during our campaign & had never been to my home in honour of our movement & Netaji. Perhaps you might have heard my sincerity in duties from Mr. Netaji & S.A. Mullik Sahab if you had any occasion to talk with them while retreating to Boma. S.A. Mullik Sahab told me, while working in Moirang village, that Netaji had been very much pleased at my honest work & informed me now & then the message of encouragement from Netaji, <sup>Saying</sup> ~~that~~ "our goal is near at hand" etc. Mullik Sahab told me also that he had recommended me for Captainship. Some of my Manipuri friends, whom I ~~had~~ called



out from enemy side (mea) & made them pro-INA  
 & who retreated with Mullik Sahib to Burma told  
 me <sup>at their arrival at Dargah,</sup> that Captain Ship & a little, something like "Shire-Hair"  
 were announced in my name in our H.Q. Rangoon

I like to <sup>have</sup> inform you that every lip speaks  
 good name for you. Some Manipuri Historians or writers often  
 ask me about you & the name of <sup>your</sup> Pode which assaulted  
 the Britishers at Ukhrul & Kohima fields.

My condition is not good for the present. I have  
 been working as a Temporary asst teacher in an M.T. school  
 at a low scale which hardly suffices my subsis-  
 tance level even; & I have been seeking for  
 a suitable employment in the Manipur Govt. In this  
 respect I require a personal Certificate granted  
 by yourself. My academic qualification is an Inter-  
 -mediation Arts of the Calcutta university. Some  
 members of the 'appointment board' here often ask me  
 to produce a certificate granted by you personally.  
 I have written to the H.Q. Indian Army for my old Regt.  
 No Rank etc etc which have been required by the  
 I.N.A. Eng. & Relief Committee, Delhi for my formal



formal I.N.A. Certificate.

Meanwhile, I sincerely request you kindly to grant me a personal Certificate mentioning my ~~my~~  
 (1) I.N.A Rank (~~Capt~~ Captain), (2) unit (Intelligence Dept), (3) character etc. I hope you will have time to dispose the same before your trip to Japan, as I have got an interview in respect of my candidature as an Inspector.  
 I want to keep further correspondence with you in future. I shall conclude here for today.

I am always praying for your prosperous & long life, & for a successful ~~return~~ & prosperous return from Nipa-trip.

Yours truly —

yours

affectionately

Naki Ahmed Chondhury

(Ex-I.N.A Captain)

C/o F. Rahman

MEKwell Bazar, Lashal  
 Manipal.

the 4th April  
 1956



107  
NICT - 2th.  
7.5.56  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS  
PORT BLAIR  
10- 4- 1956

My dear Sir,

I attach herewith a portion of a book that I intend publishing in due course. Its title will be "Andamans under the Japanese 1942- 19 45 ". The portion that I am forwarding is from Chapters IX, X, XI, XII & XIII . I have depicted the happenings that had taken place in the Andamans between 1942 to 1945. Chapter X is the whole chapter but parts are only sent from other chapters as the narration in them is not to the point at issue before your Inquiry Committee. When you were about to leave the Andamans the drafting had only gone half the way. The polishing had taken some more time. Although the descriptive portion has been completed there are various references to places, for which I intend preparing a map. Certain photographs are also necessary. Some pieces of the narration are under illustration by an artist. When all these are completed then only I can give the matter a serious thought about its publication.

In the course of giving an account of Japanese occupation various descriptions about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's visit to these Islands could not be avoided. Therefore his visit, the treatment meted out to him, his exclusion from the public, deliberate procrastination to hand over the civil administration to his appointed Chief Commissioner, have been all given in detail. Although my narration does not provide the direct evidence of his disappearance, yet it gives some account of the behaviour of the Japanese to-wards him as observed by me.

.....2.....



As your committee is holding an enquiry now in New Delhi, you must be preparing the preliminaries required to begin the work. I wonder, if my narration which gives certain facts by personal observation, can put the Enquiry Committee on a certain line of actions.

For so long as my attempt does not reach the publishers, I would request you not to make the matter public, but it can be used by the Committee for the purpose of enquiry. When I was in Singapore in 1946, I was surprised to learn that the treatment of Indians there was good, although that of Chinese was cruel. That was probably due to the presence of Netaji on the spot. You will, therefore be surprised to see that the treatment of Indians, was, only cruel in the Andamans.

Col. Loganatham who was the Chief Commissioner under Netaji had no means of direct communication with Netaji and whatever communication took place either by the air mail or by telegraph, took place through the medium of the Japanese. Therefore they were in a supreme position to decide what should be suppressed and what should be delivered at both the ends. For this reason I am confident that the hardship suffered by the residents of the Andamans was never narrated to Netaji. If it was narrated in a letter by Loganatham it could not have reached him for the reason that the communication may have been altogether suppressed. Before the start of the second spy case a number of letters came to a number of persons here through the Red- Cross Agency. I know that great care was taken to expunge portions from these before delivery to the addressees.



.....3.....

In preparing this draft, I have carefully excluded many stories about the cruel accounts of Japanese performed here and there by the individual Japanese. Only the organized forms of tortures performed in the garb of spy cases are depicted. I shall be writing a preface before sending the effort to the press. Do you think it will serve some useful purpose if it is printed! I may be guilty of painting the Japanese a bit black. But to my mind they do not deserve any other colour. Japan may be angry but the facts recorded are proved facts: proved in the War Crimes Courts at Singapore.

If any doubt creeps in your mind from any of the passages, I shall be too pleased to furnish further informations. The Hindi interpreter, that I have referred to in the body of the narration is Shri Shah. He is from Gujrat. He went to Tokyo when he was very young with some other business men, and he was brought from there to the Andamans. The English interpreters were Japanese. Shah visited Andamans in 1955.

Yours faithfully,

*Rama Krishna*

( Rama Krishna)

Andaman & Nicobar  
Islands  
Port Blair.

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Shri S.N. Maitra, I.C.S.,  
Member of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's  
Inquiry Committee,

C/o The Parliamentary Secretary, to the  
Union Minister for Transport and Railways,  
New Delhi.



## Chapter IX

### After math of the first spy case

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As a large number of Indians came in the hands of the Japanese in Malaya, Burma and other places, they got Netaji Subas Chandra Bose under certain secret arrangements with the German Government. The world came to know about his miraculous arrival at Singapore. His arrival gave a fillip to Indians and courage to the Japanese. After a month or two a South East Asian conference with representatives of Burma, Malaya, Netherlands, East Indies, Philippines and occupied China was convened at Tokyo. As Netaji represented no Indian territory, he took part in this conference as an observer.

On his return to Singapore, it was declared by the Japanese Government that the administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands <sup>was</sup> placed under Netaji. A trick more sinister than this, was never played by any nation. As events that followed this declaration, showed in the course of time that this declaration of the Japanese Government was a mere mockery. These islands were never handed over either to Netaji or his appointed Chief Commissioner, Col. Loganatham, who actually came here, with his staff to take over charge and administer. About this, details will be given later.

## Chapter X

Now the presence of a bearded stranger on a beach and the constant interception of messages that were sent out from some where near about the islands, gave a craze to the Japanese. They were pulling hard at the leash to dash against some one who was the actual culprit. If the gang could be unearthed, the better. They went all out employing all sorts of methods, coaxing, cajoling, tempting and what not. Then they descended to crude methods. They were simple: suspected men should be caught, harassed and finally tortured. They embarked on this method.

The work on the aerodrome was a little slackened on account of the verdict of the expert about the existence of an air pocket over it and the consequent daily crashing of fighter planes at the rate of at least two daily to the amusement of the on-lookers and the annoyance of the Japanese. It was decided by then (middle of 1943) to construct a new aerodrome at Mitha Khari. The strip selected was between Mitha Khari Jetty and Elephant Point. A number of bull-dozers were employed in levelling the ground. The adjoining paddy field was taken over. A section of the coconut plantation was completely razed to the ground. Labour employed were by hundreds and scattered all over. This was the vigorous season for planting paddy but with absolute disregard to the need of cultivators or to scarcity of ~~food~~ food grains that would follow in the wake of such action, the Japanese collected cultivators from villages of all the settled area by motor trucks and dumped them at Namunagher. Make-shift barracks for their accommodation were erected frantically. It was the height of the rainy season. Barracks which had no adequate roofing, were like sieves, where sitting during the day and sleeping by night was impossible. There was no arrangement for cooking food. This had to be done in the open and when a downpour came, men had to run back to the shelter of the barracks only to get wet there. Food took care of itself in the open rain. Going out of barracks either by day or night was impossible owing to the bog developing all round them in the rains of account of the constant back and forward movements of the inmates. No latrines were provided. No bathing arrangements were made. Men were brought away from villages by truck-loads as if they were so many bags of sand. They were not told where they were to go. No utensils for cooking, no change of clothes nor things of ordinary need were carried by them. Their women and children were looking on in astonishment as they went. News reached them after a day or two that they were all located at Namunagher for aerodrome work and that they would not be



allowed to go home daily. Utensils and some clothes were <sup>brought</sup> ~~brought~~ down by the women folks, but those who were single, remained helpless. History repeats itself, it is said. At least the British supplied their prisoners, when they brought them here in 1858, with food, clothing, bed and a good shelter. They were kept in habitable barracks. The Japanese did not provide any of these. On the other hand they employed these men on work from morn till eve. When anyone pleaded that ~~his~~ his field in his village was going to wreck and ruin, severe lathi blows descended on his body, slackening at work was the other occasion where the lathi became liberal. Apart from the work on the aerodromes men were also employed intensively on other defence works such as gun emplacements, trenches and hide-outs.

When the public woke up one morning at the end of August 1943, they found that two supervisors who held charge of the Labour force, were under arrest. The arrest of these two men was the beginning of a very <sup>cruel</sup> ~~cruel~~ episode in the history of the Andamans under the Japanese. These two persons were beaten daily to give clue of the spies working on the islands in a gang under some one. What information the Japanese extracted from these two is unknown and will ever remain unknown-as one was shot later and the other died under torture- but ~~the~~ what is well known is, that people from all walks of life and from all over the place were arrested indiscriminately and taken to the jail under the direct supervision of Mitsubashi, the Chief of the Police who was now a civilian in military uniform under Jyochi Rensusukai, the civil Governor. This head of the police from the time of his arrival till his departure was a terror on the islands. The entire policemen who were Indians with a sprinkling of Burmans, seeing their master cruel to a surprising degree, became the very embodiment of cruelty. Particularly those who were employed on torture work in the jail, became thoroughly beasts in human form. The mass arrest now started in the beginning of September 1943.

Arrested men with arms pinned behind their backs by a thick string, like ~~into~~ an animal, taken to be butchered, were brought daily to the Cellular Jail to the tune of scores. The newly arrested persons could hear, as soon as they reached the main gate of the jail, the wailing, howling, crying and lamenting of the tortured persons inside. Arrested persons at the end of the month, over-crowded the jail. Their strength now rose to some hundreds. Strange it may seem and even paradoxical, that the men chosen by the Chief of the Police to inflict torture on Indians were the Indians, mostly picked up from all over the islands for their build and sturdiness. They were the men who were wielding clubs, sticks and cudgels with all animal fury on their own brethren. They had no alternative. They were enlisted as policemen. The head of the torture chamber was always a Japanese. These chambers were many, according to the form of torture one had to be subjected to, (see Chapter VIII). We had read or heard about the demons of God chastising the people sent to the hell. The hell of the scripture is not seen by anyone nor its chastisement but the Cellular Jail was the veritable hell which gave a taste of it. Here not only the residents went into it during their life time but also saw and underwent the scriptural torment of hell, on earth. If the Japanese in charge of a certain section of the torture chamber ordered these hard hearted people to inflict, say, 5% torture, these people would inflict 100% to gain favour. If he was asked to pierce a nail with iron pins and heat the pin at its end, for example, the zealous policeman not only heated the inserted pin thoroughly but burnt the tip of the ~~finger~~ <sup>finger</sup> finger also thoroughly. If he was ordered to deliver half a dozen lashes the victim emerged from the torture chamber after receiving not less than a hundred or its neighbourhood. The ordering was done in the interrogation room and the torturing was done in another chamber where the Japanese was not present to see the execution of his order. The policeman was the monarch of all he surveyed and did what he liked, lustily.

By the end of November, arrests stopped. Tortures on those already arrested, continued. Sikhs and their friends came under severe chastisement by their own religionists, on account of the bearded man seen on the beach. All the sikhs in the police department were ordered to get rid of their beards and long hairs on the head in order that there may be no confusion about their identity. The



Japanese had no respect for any one's religion and they called themselves orietales and Asiatics.

About this period i.e. the closing months of 1943 came the news that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, had become the head of the first Indian province that had come under the Japanese occupation, namely the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A provisional Government of India was established at Singapore under Netaji with necessary ministers. The Indian National Army comprising of men of the old regular army under the British who were then the prisoners of war with the Japanese and new men taken from the residents of Malaya and other parts of South East Asia, was raised. All other Indians became members of the Indian Independence League. Netaji became the President and the heads of other branches became the chairmen of those respective branches under him. The Andaman branch was also affiliated to the monther organization with the difference that this branch remained perfectly under the Japanese, whereas other branches functioned independently under Netaji.

Netaji visited the islands towards the close of 1943. The second spy case was in full swing and un-heard of tortures were being perpetrated within the four walls of the jail. Outside it, considerable ~~panic~~ panic prevailed. As Netaji's visit could not be put off and as the country could not be brought hurriedly to normal, precautions by various ingenious methods were taken to obliterate the abnormality prevailing on the islands. Consequently no members of the public were given ~~te-~~ a chance to speak to him.

On his arrival, a selected band of civilians was gathered and carted by the Japanese to the aerodrome where the gathered crowd - very small in number - formed into two rows. This was the party which went ostensibly to welcome Netaji but remained mute as statues. He inspected them as ~~as~~ if he was inspecting a guard of honour! No military guard of honour was provided by the Japanese military authorities. He, with his staff, after landing was carried to the erstwhile Government House on Ross Island. The road from the aerodrome to Aberdeen Jetty from which a crossing is made to reach Ross Island was ordered to be lined up by men, women and children. Of this order, Netaji was unaware and remained so throughout. No one was introduced to Netaji in the air port. In fact after deplaning he just "saw" the crowd and boarded a car to pass through another crowd on both sides of the road gathered there "by order".

It must be remembered that when Ross Island was the capital of Port Blair, the Government House, the main hospital with the Senior Medical Officer, the Central Supply stores under a Supply Officer, the secretariat, and the Military, (One company of Europeans and one company of Indians) were located there. As all these centres of activity were on this island, there a regular service of steam launches between it and Aberdeen which connected the mainland. At the time of general evacuation, everything was shifted to Aberdeen for fear of naval bombardment of the enemy. Consequently the launches plying between Ross and Aberdeen stopped. The Japanese did not resume this service as the island was barren when they came. Therefore the object of the Japanese was not actually to honour Netaji by giving him the use of the derelict Government House, but to segregate him on the unpopulated surface of Ross Island. There was no one here to give him news about the conditions prevailing in the Andamans, and the approach to the island being by boat, not boats plied. So their objective to keep Netaji marooned, so<sup>to</sup> say, for so long as he was here was achieved. He was very cautiously taken out of the island on two occasions, - one on a pre-arranged tour and the other ceremoniously to a crowded meeting at the only maidan of Port Blair.

A dinner party was given by the Admiral in charge of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Netaji and his staff, in this Government House at Ross. Why not at his own residence at Aberdeen? For fear that he or his staff would contact some one whom the Japanese did not want him to contact? For fear that the contact would result in his discovery about the arrests and tortures that were going on at Port Blair and about the forced labour that was being employed all over? However the Japanese military officers and civil officers (also in uniforms) attended the dinner. The Indian heads of departments were also invited. The latter were barely half a dozen in number. He was very heavily chaperoned by these officers and when he was talking to Indians round the table after the dinner one or two of the Intelligence



Department people, whom the Indians knew very well were always present. So was the case when any one spoke to any one of Netaji's staff consisting of five officers besides himself.

Netaji's residence was fixed up at the abandoned Government House in order to elate him. In fact this place was studiously chosen by the Japanese. Outwardly it was to convey to him that he, being the head of the Province, by virtue of his being the head of the Provisional Government of India, rightly occupied the Government House which was occupied by an Englishman before, as the head of the province. But there was a lot behind it. He was taken to the forsaken island because he should have no opportunity to mix with or to talk to the people of the Andamans. Thus he was to remain in utter darkness of what was happening here from day to day. He was especially ignorant of the so-called spy cases, the tortures at their wake and the general terror that prevailed throughout the country.

His itinerary of the island was also arranged similarly. He was taken to certain villages with a number of army and navy officers surrounding him. That created a sense of dignity to Netaji but at the same time it struck awe in the minds of the public. When the news reached villages that Netaji was coming to them, the general feeling was that they would get a chance to speak to him face to face and tell him about some of their suffering. But surrounded as he was, that chance never came to the great disappointment of all. Some of the villages, he saw from a distance, and of some he had a near view. At places he was made to meet a crowd or two. Things were so arranged that he heard no one from the crowd but spoke himself to the crowd. The moment the Japanese thought that some one would stand up to talk to him, the meeting abruptly came to a close without any one realizing what was the next move. If he only heard a few! He would have got some picture of the suffering of mankind. No Indians of the Andamans accompanied him as the Japanese did not consider that procedure to be safe. So he could not talk to any one except the Japanese through interpreters.

A public meeting was arranged on the only maidan of Port Blair in which a large number of people were made to attend. Netaji came from Ross and reached the maidan in a ceremonious procession made up of Japanese officers in a number of cars. On arrival, he went up the rostrum and unfurled the Indian National flag, the first one to be hoisted on the Indian territory. Rama Krishna, the Chairman of the Andaman branch of the Indian Independence League, gave a welcome address, after which Netaji addressed the gathering. Without meeting any of the residents he was again very ceremoniously driven to the Ross Island. In fact he was segregated there again, and the Japanese, in order to veil their real intention in keeping him there profusely boasted that they had given him the first place of honour as the only Indian who had occupied the Government House which was meant only for an Englishman. The Japanese can cloak his feeling in a proverbial way, as experience has shown. When he smiles and speaks most charmingly and laughing intermittently, it must be safely assumed, that he is planning, if not planned already, some extremely diabolical mischief. Nothing short of one's life would satisfy him. The Andamans can supply evidence galore of this trait in the character of the Japanese. The world has already seen the Japanese delegate at the important league of Nations laughing and chattering away when Manchuria was becoming Manchukuo by the slow process of digestion by the Japanese. Similar joke was played at China. When confronted with questions at the world forum, Japan gave out that that was not war and that she was merely settling some of her domestic dispute. All the time the domestic dispute was going on, the Japanese youths were given strenuous training in the up-to-date war fare and the navy was learning all the art of bombardment from the sea and <sup>off</sup>land <sup>ing</sup>. And at last, what a disaster was wrought at Hawaii?

In the same style the Japanese cajoled, smiled and laughed with the Indians at the time of landing and for some time afterwards and boasted that they were the ones who had liberated the Andamans from the yoke of the British. The same Japanese subjected them in the course of time to the ceaseless, merciless beating at the aerodrome; to incarceration at the Jail for torture without rhyme



rhyme or reason; and finally to lay them in the cradle of death one by one.

A visit to the jail was in the itinerary of Netaji. He was to go there in the morning. Now the Cellular Jail has seven wings equidistant from each other at the tail end but all heads meet at a central tower. The tails are all joined to each other by high walls to prevent the escape of the inmates. Now at the time of the visit of Netaji, there were barely a score of actually convicted persons. They had committed a crime and were convicted with various terms of sentences. But the so-called Second Spy Case being on, there were more than a hundred persons undergoing tortures and were subjected to interrogations. Netaji was shown barely the score of persons who were the actual prisoners and were at various work such as cleaning the garden, planting vegetables, sweeping the jail compound and cooking for the prisoners. He was taken to one or two wings to show him with a big grin that there were hardly any to fill such a large jail and that for that reason it was empty. No one from the population was allowed to accompany the visitor and his staff. Alas ! If he had seen, sikhs whose beard and hairs were missing: not shaved but burnt by petrol; a few whose skin was missing from thighs, scrotum, abdomen and chest and could not wear any apparel; a few who had no flesh at their buttocks; a few who had no skin on their bodies, the result of burns by petrol; a few who could not walk straight, the result of constant kneeling on sticks; a few who had deep knife cuts all over the fleshy parts of their bodies where salt was sprinkled. Alas ! If he had only seen these with his own eyes. Nay, if he had seen even one of them and questioned him about his predicament. When the Japanese were unscrupulous to keep all their tyrannical acts on Indians studiously veiled from the only Indian who ought to have known these facts, no wonder that they are keeping the fact of his death or life veiled from the world. The Japanese inherent treachery is the clue to this fell mystery. He was taken to the jail deliberately, so that when later he came to know about the tortures perpetrated there, he might be perplexed to realize that he had not seen anything wrong there.

The same night Netaji gave a return dinner party to the Admiral and a number of Japanese officers. In this party also the same Indians who were invited before, were, invited. The same step-motherly guard was kept on these ~~xxx~~ after the dinner when they sat in the drawing room with Netaji. The speech of Indians was all guarded seeing that the Intelligence Department was vigilant. They knew the consequences of loose talk which gave Netaji some information damaging to the Japanese. As Netaji was to leave the following morning, and as he had had no chance to meet any of the members of the public, although he saw them every there, Rama Krishna, the chairman of the Andaman Branch of the Indian Independence League suggested to him whether it would be possible for him to visit the headquarters of the league, before taking off for Singapore. This was an unexpected event in the cut and dried programme of the Japanese. When the news, that Netaji had accepted the League's invitation, reached the Admiral who was in the next room, consultation in hurried whispers went on for a while between Japanese officers who were on the move from room to room of the spacious Government House. As all conveyance were under the charge of the Japanese Netaji had to inform the Admiral, that on his way to the aerodrome he would visit the head quarters of the League. In the course of time the party broke up. A hurried notice was circulated to a few League members but to all Committee members to be present to meet Netaji at the head quarters at Aberdeen.

The Headquarters being in the centre of the only bazaar every one was struck with amazement when he saw men, women and children being rounded up by the police by the order of the Japanese and driven to the headquarters of the League from 2 a.m. onwards when Netaji's arrival was timed 8 a.m. When a few members of the league and practically all the members of the Working Committee arrived a little before 8 a.m. they found that the hall was filled up to the brim and that they could not enter the hall. However Netaji arrived at the appointed hour with a very large



large number of naval officers. With great difficulty a way was found for him and others to enter the hall. He saw the crowd but actually he saw no one. The collection of men, women, and children over night was a very novel procedure which only a Japanese could conceive and execute. This procedure gave no chance to Netaji to speak to any one individually. The Chairman of the League gave a welcoming short speech after which, he addressed the crowd. What was actually contemplated in inviting him to the head quarters of the league was that he and his staff may find an opportunity to mix with a few persons other than the heads of departments whom he had already seen twice in the two dinner parties. The idea behind this, was that a heart to heart talk might ensue in which Netaji might get a clue of the true position of the populace here. This was not to be. The cunning Japanese had forestalled this contingency. They filled the hall and its precincts, with men, women and children, somehow anyhow, overnight and the noise of weeping children and conversing men and women drowned the two speeches that were delivered from one of the corners of the hall. The number of officers that accompanied Netaji was a very large one, so they filled up the gap if there was one although there was none. Outwardly the Japanese demonstrated to the visitor smiling all over that such a large crowd that were there, were there because they were attracted by his name and personality. How could they be attracted by his personality, when no one knew about his coming except a dozen persons who were called there by the Chairman of the League? The Japanese ingenuity made it impossible for Netaji to meet and converse with any one on the Islands. After the 'ceremony' was over, it was difficult for him to come out of the hall. There was no place for the crowd to make room for his exit as the police were thrusting people into the hall even after he entered it. At any rate a way was, with difficulty, found for him. As he took his seat in the car, the last to bid him farewell was the Chairman of the League who asked him to take over the administration of the islands quickly. To this he agreed and in a month or two following, Col. Loganatham was appointed as Chief Commissioner.

During the course of the month after his departure, the dreaded Second Spy Case, came to an end. Thirty three persons in all, were shot dead and the like number were given long terms of imprisonment. This event took place after the departure of Netaji in December 1943 and before the arrival of Col. Loganatham, the Chief Commissioner with his staff in February, 1944. This is how 1944 began.

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## Chapter XI

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On the heel of his departure came the Chief Commissioner, Col. Loganatham, with three officers and a stenographer from Singapore. People were now doubly assured by the progress of events, that the administration having gone to the hands of Indians, conditions would improve and the reign of cruelty and terror would cease.

The last ship to the port of Port Blair came about this time and both the naval and military strengths were considerably increased. At one time at this period, it was estimated that there were some twenty to twenty five thousand fighting men with big gun emplacements everywhere. The aeroplanes were becoming very conspicuous by their quick depletion. Although the Japanese controlled "The Andaman Shimbun" a one sheet daily, published news of the successes of the Japanese navy and army at various fronts, the actual facts, as transpired after the war, was otherwise. In all engagements on sea and land they were suffering terrific losses and the European arm of the Axis was under severe chastisement. They had lost all hopes of help from their European friends.

The destruction of the Japanese shipping by the Allied sub-marine so intensive and audacious that at times ships could be seen off the coast of Port Blair, going down with all



cargo. That was the most damaging out of all for the ship had come all the way only to go down when a five-minute journey only remained to be accomplished. The enemy sub-marines even surfaced audaciously. The torpedoing within the harbour or its approach became so frequent, again to the amusement of on-lookers and to the disappointment of the Japanese, that cargo ships altogether stopped coming to Port Blair.

By this time the harbour having been all fished out, and the staple food of the Japanese being rice and fish and plenty of the latter, one motor launch used to go every morning with a number of small dinghies in tow to fish, out of the harbour. One day, as the motor boat with its tow, was half the way, an allied sub-marine suddenly surfaced and signalled it to stop, so the serang of the motor boat related later. The motor boat stopped but before it ~~it~~ did so its rudder was blown off by the sub-marine. After that the sub-marine came alongside and a few of the crew boarded the motor boat. Seeing this the only Japanese on the motor boat who went daily to see that the catch was not pilfered when the smaller boats returned to the mother motor boat before returning home, jumped into the sea to escape capture, but a shot from the revolver of the sub-marine people gave him an aquatic grave. Seeing the S.O.S. flag on the motor boat, the shore sent another motor boat. The latter brought the former in tow to the harbour. After reaching the harbour, the Japanese learnt what had happened. All the fishermen, the serang and all the crew, were placed under arrest and taken to the notorious Jail. The master and the crew of the motor boat were ~~free~~ released after a few days of interrogation but half a dozen fishermen were detained and later the news seeped through the Jail that the fishermen were severely tortured. This was the third Spy case.

Col. Loganatham, the Chief Commissioner appointed by Netaji, was here at the time and after his arrival, had learnt all about previous spy cases. The arrest of these fishermen took place under his very nose. He intervened on their behalf, so he said. But after a month or two of their arrest these fishermen, four in number, and all Bengalis, were ~~be~~ hanged inside the jail.



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On account of the impending danger of the landing of the enemy, the outposts of the Japanese Intelligence Department became innumerable and civilians were suspected of rendering help to the enemy in the event of a landing. They were also suspected of giving out news about their fortifications. Harassment of civilians became a common affair. The population was already clothes-less and food-less. Working hard in the forced labour gang and getting beaten at the whim of the Japanese, was the routine. On the top of all that came this harassment. Sleeping by night and working by day became impossible as residents were called in at odd hours at these out-posts and questioned unnecessarily. They were made to sit for hours. Some were given tastes of lathi blows quite without any reason.

As the Japanese themselves were keenly feeling the shortage of food, they were supplementing their food by killing goats and fowls of the residents of villages. As these were being killed from a long time, they had by the middle of 1944, become nearly extinct. As they had to find other avenues for their meat supply, cows and buffaloes, were laid hands on. Without taking into consideration the milk supply of children, or the need of a cultivator, both cows and bullocks, he or she buffaloes, were slaughtered indiscriminately. One elephant of the Forest Department was even slaughtered and eaten. But those who ate that flesh did not do well. 90% of them died, so there was no more killing of elephants.

As much more paddy than what the cultivators could conveniently spare, was taken away from the houses of cultivators they began coming in with petitions praying that rice should be issued to them. It must be recorded here that when ration cards were originally issued, cultivators were excluded from getting rice. Now that their paddy was taken away, they wanted rice. The issue was sanctioned after a good deal of delay, by which time, men, women, and children were starving. Edible roots or leaves were their only hope.

Now the Fourth Spy Case started in June 1944 and island-wide arrests were the order of the day for two months. The charge on all the arrested men, was that under some leadership, they were preparing themselves to help the allied force whenever a landing was affected. The usual torture was being applied to extract confession. The protests of Col. Loganathan, the Chief Commissioner were of no avail. In fact he told out that he had several interviews with the admiral in this connection, but nothing came out of that. On the other hand, the admiral, in one of the interviews took the Chief Commissioner, to his place of worship, and solemnly swore that spying was going on on the island and someone will have to pay dearly for it. If the Japanese only knew that someone from the enemy was doing this work, the people of the Andamans would have been spared all those tortures.

The intervention of Netaji, whose headquarters was at Singapore, was practically impossible to save innocent people who were undergoing tortures by all ingenuous means that only a devil in human garb can conceive. The only avenue of communication left to the Japanese, was the occasional aeroplane service or the telegraph service. Both these means of communication were in the hands of the Japanese. What reached him from here and what reached here from him was an unknown quantity to those who were other than the Japanese. Complete black out of the news of local suffering existed. The Chief Commissioner even was not allowed to see these sufferers in the jail as was evident from his total absence from the scene of torture. It is within the range of imagination to realise that Netaji was eluded and prevented from seeing the tortures perpetrated in jail because his visit was short and formal. He had not come to hold any inquiry as there was no complaint before him. But it is not imaginable why the Chief Commissioner failed to inspect the jail to see at least for himself what was going on there. His inability to do so, indicates the impotency of his administration. Here is further proof that he was not the head of the administration nor was the island ever handed over to Netaji. The declaration of the Japanese Government after the South East Asian Conference was a mere farce, if not outright treachery.



Further of torture and Island-wise Arrests

War developments, of which the Japanese were aware, and the population, not in the least, were not at all bright. With the shift of situation, mal-treatment of the populace increased. It had later transpired that towards the beginning of 1945, they had practically no navy worth the name and the tactics of the Allies altogether changed. Instead of the dreaded landing on the Andamans, intensive operation started on the Burma front. So there was a lull on the islands. All incarcerated men were released except thirty three. Netaji recalled his entire hibernating staff from here to help him in the Burma front. But for their recall, they would have been within the four walls of the self same jail !

This is a very sweeping statement. What is the proof of that? As a practice, whenever one was arrested and brought to the main gate of the jail, he was sent to a cell in the jail which was already marked for him. The procedure was, whenever one was arrested, the Chief of the Police, who was in charge of all the arrests, in collaboration with the Military Intelligence Department, would assign him a cell in the jail. The local police which mounted guard on the arrested, would write the name of the confinee above the cell door for all the sentries to know. When he was released, his name was scored, and the name of the new comer was written somewhere there. As releases developed into large numbers, many cells fell vacant, in which case, reshuffling of the remnants was made and the name of the old occupants was scored and that of the new one, written. In one of these reshuffles, when one of the arrested went to occupy his newly assigned cell, he read his own name below the scored out name of Col. Loganatham, the Chief Commissioner, whom he knew to be on his sick bed with gastric troubles. The heinousness of the Japanese intentions can be judged by this premeditated action in 'reserving' a cell for him. The catastrophe was avoided by his virtual 'deportation' from here on account of his 'gastric troubles'. After a short time, his assistants followed him.

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

### MOVEMENT IN THAILAND

The Japanese forces attacked Thailand early in the morning of December 8, 1941, and the war lasted about five hours. After setting up the military headquarters here, the Japanese army authorities proposed that the Indians in Thailand select one prominent Indian as their spokesman and representative, with whom they could consult any matter regarding Indians, and communicate their suggestions.

To discuss this proposal, a meeting of Indians was immediately held under the auspices of the Indian Association at its premises in Anuwongse Road, Bangkok. At the time, the President of the said Association was the late Mr. A.E. Nana, the well-known Indian merchant and landlord.

It was unanimously resolved by the said meeting that Swami Satyananda Puri, a man of outstanding academic and cultural talents, be selected as representative of the Indian community in Thailand. The Swami was present at that meeting. He was much pressed by all Indians to take up this responsibility and he was promised all help, financial and otherwise, which might be required to enable him to discharge his work to the fullest benefit of the Indians in Thailand. The writer himself was present at that meeting.

In this connection it will not be out of place to give a brief outline of Swami Satyananda Puri's mission and activities in Thailand. He came to this country in 1931 at the suggestion of the Late Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore with a purely cultural aim and worked his way toward this end with the fullest co-operation of the local Indians. He set up at the outset an organization called "DHARMASHRAMA" and started his cultural work under this organization. He popularised the Sanskrit language in this country and introduced that language in the Chulalongkorn State University. He was offered the chair of Sanskrit by the University authorities which he accepted as a service to both Thailand and India. Gradually he became closely associated with all the religious and academic Institutions



of Bangkok. When his work became more wide-spread, he converted DHARMASHRAMA into Thai-Bharat Cultural in 1940.

The opening of the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge is a landmark in the history of overseas Indians' battle for their Motherland's freedom, as on that day Swami Satyananda Puri hoisted the Indian National Flag, alongside the Thai National Flag, at the premises of the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge. It was on that occasion that the Thai people first saw the Indian National Flag, which had inspired so many known and unknown Indian heroes to lay down their lives at the altar of freedom. And this flag was regularly hoisted at the premises of the Lodge upto the time the Lodge was seized by the Field Security Service at the end of the South-East Asian war on August 15, 1945.

The lodge was reopened by Pandit Raghunath Sharma in July 1946 after he was released from Singapore jail by the British authorities. In the task of opening the Lodge, he was untiringly assisted by Sri Debnath Das, an old associate of Swami Satyananda Puri and a high official of the Indian Independence League. The Indian National Flag was again hoisted at the mast of the Lodge.

In the midst of all these cultural activities, Swamiji was persuaded by the Indian community in Thailand to take up the responsibility of looking after their interest in the uneasy war-time. For the greater benefit his compatriots, he postponed his cultural activities for the time-being and took up a work which was rather political in nature.

Immediately following this, Swamiji called a meeting of Indians in Thailand at the local Silpakorn Theatre, where he announced the formation of the INDIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL with the fullest co-operation of the Thai Government and people. This meeting was in itself an important event in the Overseas Indians' history in Thailand, as on that occasion thousands of Indians from all parts of Thailand assembled in Bangkok under the Indian National flag and co-ordinated their activities with a view to gaining the motherland's freedom. It was unanimously decided at that meeting that Swami



Satyananda Puri should be President of the National Council.

It was then announced by Swami Satyananda Puri that Sri Debnath Das would act as the General Secretary of the Council and Pandit Raghunath Sharma would act as Treasurer, which was approved by the gathering. After Swami Satyananda Puri became president of the National Council, he got in touch with Sri Subhas Chandra Bose in Germany through the German legation in Bangkok and through the good offices of this legation the two were in constant touch with each other. From the very outset, it was the principle of Swamiji to conduct every work for the Indians and for India entirely through the effort and financial aid of the Indian community in Thailand. With this principle in the forefront, he started to conduct the affairs of the India Council independently of Japanese aid. He systematically refused to take any suggestion from the Japanese army authorities which could be interpreted as a propaganda for them. This independent attitude of Swami Satyananda Puri was not liked by the Japanese; but he staunchly carried out his work without taking any notice of Japanese displeasure. He considered only such suggestions from the Japanese army authorities which he thought to be genuinely good for Indians.

This basic difference of principle and policy between Swami Satyananda Puri and the Japanese army authorities grew wider with time, which led the Japanese to take resort to another method. They persuaded Gyani Pritam Singh and some other young Indians, who were, nevertheless, genuine patriots, to form an organization with Japanese financial aid to carry on propaganda work. Gyani Pritam Singh, in absolute good faith, took up the suggestion and formed a band of sincere young workers. They were sent to various war fronts with loudspeakers and other field equipments to persuade the British Indian Army to give up fighting against the Japanese forces.

Gyani Pritam Singh's activities were not liked by Swamiji as the latter always insisted on the fact that whatever work was to be done by Indians in Thailand must be aimed at the greater good of India and must be conducted through the guidance and knowledge of



the Indian National Council. However, Gyani Pritam Singh continued to work in his own way and he himself went to war-frow, from where he could not come back to Bangkok.

The work done by Swami Satyananda Puri won the full support and sympathy of the Thai authorities. When in the course of the war, the movement of the people became very very restricted and they were to move from one place to another with Government permit, the Thai Government authorized Swami Satyananda Puri to issue permits, which enabled the Indians to go to any place in the country and come back to Bangkok. Owing to the urgency of the wartime, the Thai Government had to impose several restrictions on aliens in some provinces, in which Indians were naturally included, As a result, Indians' business concerns in those places were sealed by the authorities and they had to report to the police everyday. When this news reached Swami Satyananda Puri in Bangkok, he got in touch with the Siamese Government and within a week all restrictions were lifted from the Indians in those places. Since then the Indians in Thailand were left completely free to move to and from any place and to conduct their business without any restrictions, whatsoever. As the Siamese Government was impressed with the patriotic work of Swamiji, they gave him all the facilities to use the radio station of the Government Publicity Department. Swamiji arranged daily broadcast to India and it was done through the Publicity Department of the Indian National Council.

As due to war-urgency, hospitals were urgently required the Indian National Council opened a hospital in Syphya Road, Bangkok, called the Indian National Council Hospital. It was housed at a spacious building generously given by the Late Mr. A.R. Salebhai, Two ambulance cars were purchased by the Indian National Council. One of the cars was given to the Thai Government Health Department while the other was used by the hospital. Dr. N.T. Joseph, (later a Colonel of the Indian National Army) was placed in charge of the hospital.

While work was thus going on in Thailand under the direction



of the Indian National Council the Japanese army authorities requested Swami Satyananda Puri to go to Singapore to attend a conference of the Indians in Malaya and later to go to Tokyo to attend another conference. Swamiji, though indisposed at that time, decided to go to Singapore with a view to studying the Indian Independence movement there. When he reached Singapore, all the Indian leaders there urged Swamiji to go to Tokyo and also agreed to follow his instructions. Accordingly, after the preliminary conference in Singapore, was over, he left for Tokyo. Then the plane reportedly crashed while nearing Japan, and Swamiji, alongwith three other Indians, Captain Akram Khan of the embryo Indian National Army, Nilkhanta Aver and Gyani Pritam Singh, who joined Swamiji in Singapore, perished. The tragedy occurred on March 24, 1942.

The untimely death of Swamiji was deeply mourned by Indians and Thais alike. Following it, Sri Debnath Das, General-Secretary of the Indian National Council, was entrusted with the task of conducting the work of the Council. While Debnath Das and Pandit Raghunath Sharma went to see the then Prime Minister of Thailand, Field Marshal Bipul Songgram, who was one of the staunchest admirers of the late Swamiji, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the late Swamiji in glowing terms saying that the first gift of Indian ~~at~~ to Thailand was the Buddha and her second gift was the late Swamiji. He further added that while it could be possible for India to produce many talented men like Swamiji, it would probably take scores of years for Thailand to repair the great loss suffered by her in the death of Swamiji.

At the Tokyo Conference, it was unanimously decided that the Indian Independence movement in South-east Asia would be under the leadership of Rash Behari Bose, the noted Indian revolutionary. Following this Conference, another conference of Indians in South-east Asia was held in Bangkok by the middle of 1942 under the presidency of Rash Behari Bose. It was at that time that the Indian Independence League in South-east Asia was formed with its Headquar-



ters in Bangkok. The Indian National Council was automatically dissolved. All the expenses incurred in running the Indian Independence League in Thailand was met by the Indian Community in this country. The IIL headquarters was established in Wireless Road with branches in all parts of South-east Asia, including one in Bangkok.

Apart from political activities, the Indians in Bangkok did magnificent social works, one of which deserves special mention. The City of Bangkok saw one of the most devastating floods in its history in September 1942, when all the localities went under several feet of water. The Indians in Bangkok voluntarily arranged to distribute free rice to the affected Thai nationals, under the sponsorship of the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge, the father of which was the late Swami Satyananda Puri. For a period of thirty-two days, about three lac bags of rice were distributed to the affected people. For two days, the Indian women of Bangkok managed the distribution of rice, which drew sincere appreciation from the Thai Government and people alike. After the floods had receded and normalcy has once more settled upon the city, the Thai Prime Minister, Field Marshal Bipul Songgram, expressed the country's gratitude in the following terms: "We have taken our religious culture and language from India. And in time of distress, it no humiliation on our part to accept this help from Indians." The Indian milkmen were hard hit by the floods, and they were also given free fodder for cows and wooden planks to erect high platforms on which they could keep the cows well above the water level. Thus, thousands of cows were saved from being destroyed.

Meanwhile, the headquarters of the Indian Independence League were transferred to Singapore and Sri Debnath Das was elected President of the Bangkok branch of the Indian Independence League, while Pandit Raghunath Sharma was elected President of the Territorial Committee of Thailand under which there were twenty-six branches all over the country.

During all this time, Sri Subhas Chandra Bose was kept in closest touch with the Independence movement in Thailand by Sri



Debnath Das, who was almost in daily telephone and code contact with him through the officer of the German Legation in Bangkok. Thus Shri Subhas Chandra Bose kept himself fully informed of the Independence movement in South-east Asia and he himself came to this part of the world in the early part of 1943. From Germany, he first went to Tokyo from where he broadcast a message to the Indians in South-east Asia. When this message was heard by the Indian community in Thailand, it brought in its trail an unprecedented enthusiasms to all Indians and they renewed their zeal to work for the motherland's liberation under the guidance and leadership of one, who was a fighter to the backbone with undiluted patriotism.

It is worth-mentioning here that it was only from Bangkok, of all places in South-east Asia, that Netaji got direct information about the Indian independence movement launched all over the region. From Tokyo, Sri Subhas Bose flew to Singapore. A few representatives of Indians in Thailand went to Singapore on that occasion, the writer of this note being one of them. After a short stay in Singapore, when he took charge of the Indian Independence League as its president from Sri Rash Behari Bose, he came to Bangkok. The day of his arrival here will go down in history as a memorable occasion, because on that day all Indians saw a new guiding light in the struggle for freedom and were moved by unbounded enthusiasms. While a few hundreds of representative Indians of both sexes went to airport to receive him, thousands of their compatriots assembled at the spacious compound of the war-memorial at the outskirts of the city to greet their beloved leader. Sri Subhas Chandra Bose was brought to the city in a huge procession and shouts of patriotic slogans went up from the assembled crowd at the war memorial. Sri Subhas Chandra Bose went round the assembly and everyone had a full view of him. Shortly after his arrival in Bangkok, a meeting of Indians in Thailand was held at the Assembly Hall of the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. In that meeting, Sri Subhas Chandra Bose outlined the future action and emphasised the broad aspect of the Independence movement, by pointing



out that while the first front of the war of liberation was in India itself under the guidance of the Indian National Congress, its second front was in South-east Asia and that it was for the Indians and Indians alone to fight for national freedom. He urged all to devote their strength and energy to make the movement successful. He addressed the gathering for about two hours and when took his seat the writer of this note, with Sri Subhas Chandra Bose's permission, made an appeal to the assembled Indians to make some monetary contributions to the movement. Following it, within the short period of a few minutes, an amount of fifteen lacs of ticals was donated on the spot by the people to the cause of freedom movement. (The value of one tical at that time was equivalent to one rupee and four annas). This spontaneous action on the part of Indians impressed him much.

When Sri Subhas Chandra Bose formed the Provisional Government of Azad Hind in Singapore, he became Netaji to all his compatriots in S-E Asia, as he is today to all Indians. The occasion was celebrated by Indians in Thailand with an unprecedented enthusiams. The procession taken out on that day, according to Thai nationals themselves, was the biggest ever seen in this country. It ended in the local Lumbini Park, where all Indians held a meeting reiterating their determination to fight for freedom under Netaji's leadership. The celebration ended with a community dinner at the park, where the Indian milkmen gave free milk totalling to several thousands of bottles.

Since the foundation of the Indian Independence League volunteers were recruited in Thailand who were given adequate military and physical training. When on the second occasion Netaji visited Bangkok as head of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, President of the IIL and Supreme Commander of INA, he placed the programme of recruiting soldiers from the Thailand Indians for the Indian National Army, recruiting girls from Thailand for the Rani of Jhansi Regiment and raising a children's semi-military organization called "Balak-



sena". He further suggested that those essential things which were available in Thailand for the Indian National Army should be sent to Singapore, Malaya and Burma, as far it was possible. Then he completely reorganized the Indian Independence League in Thailand and the territorial committee was abolished.

According to Netaji's order, the following new departments were created: (1) Recruiting Department (2) Finance Department (3) Supply Department (4) Social Welfare Department (5) Women's Department (6) Publicity and Propaganda Department and a Central Department controlling the branches of IIL in Thailand.

Sardar Isar Singh Narula was appointed Chairman of the Bangkok branch of the Indian Independence League; and the following were appointed heads of the departments:

Shri Ramlalit Misra ..... Recruiting Department,  
S.T. Mahatani, followed by Pandit Raghunath Sharma..Finance Department.

Shri Badruddin A. Kapasi ... Supply Department,  
Shri Ragho Singh ... Social Welfare Department,  
Pandit Raghunath Sharma ... Women's Department,  
Shri A. Hakim ... Publicity Department

Pandit Raghunath Sharma, followed by Moulvi Abdul Moquaddes, Central Department controlling all IIL branches in Thailand.

Shri Debnath Das, who was acting as General Secretary of the IIL in Bangkok, was appointed in charge of the IIL in Rangoon headquarters.

After Netaji's call for mobilization, over two thousand Indians in Thailand were recruited and declared physically fit to serve in the Indian National Army. Many Indian girls from all places of Thailand volunteered to serve in the Rani of Jhansi Regiment but twenty girls were declared physically fit and were sent to Singapore to undergo military training.

Over two hundred Indian boys from all over Thailand were recruited for "Balak Sena" and were given adequate physical training under the supervision of Master Karnail Singh.



Following the reorganization of the Indian National Army by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Indian youths from all parts of South-east Asia poured in to the recruited in the INA and it was deemed necessary to set up many army camps.

Consequently, a camp was established at Cholburi, a provincial Town about eighty miles from Bangkok at an initial cost of over fifteen lacs of ticals. An average of fifteen hundred recruits were trained there for a period of three months after which they were sent in groups to Singapore and Rangoon according to the INA Headquarters order. For a period of nearly one a half years the camp worked at top speed and it existed right up to the end of the South-east Asia war. The average monthly expense for running the Cholburi military camp was about thirty thousand ticals. All these expenses were met from the monetary contributions made by Indians in Thailand. Many of the recruits from Thailand, who satisfied physical and academic qualifications were sent to the INA officers' training centre in Malaya and got the commission of Second Lieutenant in the INA. Some of them commanded INA contingents on the front.

Thailand played a very prominent part in supplying all the necessities to the army and civilian personnel of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind and the Indian Independence League in Singapore, Malaya and Rangoon, apart from meeting those needs in Thailand itself. The following things were mainly supplied: Army boots; rice; pulse; maize; coconut oil; cloth for military and civilian uniforms, medicine red sugar and army flasks.

To meet the demands for boots and uniforms, two factories were set up in Bangkok to manufacture these two items. The total amount of money spent for the above things was about one crore and twenty lacs of ticals, and it was donated entirely by the Indians in Thailand. It was in accordance with Netaji's call that money should be met by the Indians and Indians alone.

Every year Netaji's birthday was celebrated with the grandeur by Indians in Thailand and on one such occasion gold, silver, ornaments and money were donated by Indians totalling Netaji's



weight. Indian women present at the celebration gave their ornaments voluntarily and with much enthusiams.

During this time, Netaji donated a total sum of seven and a half lacs of Ticals to various public and social institutions. Amongst these institutions, the Chulalongkorn University got two a half lacs of ticals and the Chulalongkorn State Hospital two and a half lacs. From this money the University gives four scholarships annually to the deserving students; and the Chulalongkorn Hospital has set up a women's ward, called "Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Ward," containing sixteen indoor beds, which are open to women of all nationalities. The ward was opened in 1952 and at that time a further sum of one lac of ticals was donated by the Indians in Thailand to enable the hospital authorities to purchase the necessary equipments.

As the war in S-E Asia continued, an extreme shortage of clothes was felt in Burma and the headquarters of the Burma branch of the Indian Independence League requested the Thailand branch of the IIL to send clothes to Burma, which could be used by Indian civilians there. The Women's Department of the Thailand branch of the IIL took up the task and collected old and new clothes, to the value of more than thirty thousand Ticals. The consignments were sent to Rangoon for distribution amongst the needy Indians.

Netaji was very much impressed with the whole-hearted effort of the Indians in Thailand in the freedom battle and on one occasion he told the writer of this note that as the Thailand Indian contingents of the Indian National Army and the Rani of Jhansi Regiment were doing splendid service if it could be possible to get more recruits from here. It is worth-nothing in this connection that during the time when Cholburi Army camp was operating, not a single complain of unseemly behaviour by any of the INA soldiers reached the Governor of that province.

The Thai authorities appreciated it very much and the Governor of Cholburi expressed his appreciation of this fact to a group of IIL officials, who went to thank him for all the facilities given.



The Thailand Indian recruits in the Indian National Army and the Rani Jhansi Regiment were sent to Burma and Singapore. A large number of those who went to Burma fought valiantly in the battle of Manipur, when the Indian National Army reached Indian soil and planted the Indian National Flag there. The Rani of Jhansi Regiment contingents from Thailand, which were sent to Rangoon, did a magnificent work in INA hospitals there when the city was virtually being bombed every day by Anglo-American warplanes; and some of the recruits were sent further up nearer to the battle line to do Red cross work. During all this time, the Thailand contingents of the Regiment maintained the highest morale.

It was during the first quarter of 1945 that arrangements for shifting the Headquarters of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind were thought necessary and in April of that year the Headquarters were shifted to Bangkok. The members of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment were brought to Bangkok under the personal supervision of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The girls were divided into two groups; while Netaji himself took charge of one group, Shri Debnath Das took charge of another. Nearly 1,800 Rani of Jhansi girls, comprising recruits from Malaya and Thailand, were brought to Bangkok and were stationed here. Apart from the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, thousands of INA officials and soldiers also came to Bangkok. The Indians in Thailand most willingly and enthusiastically took up the task of looking after these tired people, many of whom had walked for over a month all the distance from Rangoon to Bangkok through hills and forests.

Many batches of INA official and civilian personnel of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind thus returned to Bangkok, where the Headquarters of the PGAH was transferred in April of 1945 by order of Netaji. Whenever news of their return reached the Indian Independence League office in Bangkok groups of League workers and INA officers were sent to Thai border to receive the returning personnel, to look after their comfort and diet and all necesseties and then to escort them to Bangkok. Such groups were sent to the Northern Thai-Burmese border in Chiangmai, Chiengrai, Maesarieng and to the southern



Thai-Burmese border such as Maesod, Paknam Po etc. The General supervision of this work was admirably done by Shri Harbanslal Sachdev, General-Secretary of the Bangkok branch of the Indian Independence League.

The task of looking after these people from the Burma front naturally meant huge expenditure and anxious care, which were ungrudgingly given by Indians in Thailand. The result was that within a short period the men and women, who retreated from Burma with falling health, owing to the strain of the long journey, regained their former health.

As has been mentioned above, the members of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, after returning from Burma, were housed in a spacious camp in Bangkok and well-looked after until all of the members regained their former health and enthusiasms. To bolster their spirit, a route march of the Regiment was arranged from Bangkok to Paknam, a searesort about sixteen miles from Bangkok. The girls, in full military uniform and army kits, marched to and back from Paknam singing nation songs -- a sight which much impressed the Thai nationals.

The writer of this note had the pleasure and pride of hearing more than once from many Thai nationals that when Indian women were so wakeful of their national right and freedom, India's liberation was bound to come in no time.

It was on August 15, 1945, that the war in South-East Asia came to an end. Netaji was in Singapore. He hurried back to Bangkok and inspected all INA camps and the Rani of Jhansi Camp. He stressed the fact that the end of the war in S-E Asia did never mean that our war for the motherland's Liberation also came to an end. He stressed that our freedom fight on the "first front" under the supreme guidance Mahatma Gandhi was to continue until India was free and that until such time none of Indians in South-East Asia would relax his or her patriotic activities. The writer himself was present on some such occasion when Netaji told the above to the INA soldiers and civilian.



At that time it was thought necessary that the girls of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, who were recruited from Thailand and Malaya, should be sent back to their homes. Netaji inspected the Rani of Jhansi Regiment camp several times and had a hard task in making them agree to go home. The girls were all determined to work for their motherland in military capacity and wanted to assure Netaji that nothing unfortunate would befall them in their work for the motherland. They were not ready to return home but to their mother country and to work there further.

But their persistence was of no avail as Netaji passed the final order that the members of the Regiment would be demobilized and sent home. Following this, those girls, who were recruited from Malaya were sent back to their respective places, while the Thailand Indian girls were sent back to their respective homes. It will not be out of place to recount the touching scene at the railway station of Bangkok, when the girls, ordered back to Malaya, presented guard of honour to their Commanding officer before handing over their arms and ammunition to the Commanding officers. The girls were deeply moved and could hardly suppress their emotions; most of them burst into tears.

The large number of Indians, who were present at the station to send them off, were equally moved. But out of this group seven girls could not go to Burma and Malaya; so some of them were housed at the local convent, the authorities of which most kindly agreed to look after them until such time they could be sent home. The rest were kept in the house of the writer of this note. When the writer was detained in prison by the British Field Security service, six of these girls (two to Burma and four to Malaya) were sent home through the arrangement made by the Security Service. The seventh and last girl was sent home after the writer was released from Singapore jail after six months.

When the Bangkok branch of the Indian Independence League was about to close down, a committee, comprising General J.K. Bhonsle, Shri Paramananda and the local Chairman of the IIL, Sardar



Isar Singh, was formed to distribute money to INA officials and other ranks as well as civilian officials and workers. All the INA officers down to the ordinary sepoy were paid handsomely and so also were the members of the Rani of Jhansi regiment. During this time all the INA camps in Bangkok were being maintained and the expenses were being met from the fund which was kept apart for this particular purpose. As restrictions were later imposed on General Bhonsle, Sri Paramananda and Sri Isar Singh and many others officers, the task of managing the camps fell on the writer. When the writer was arrested, he handed over the last remaining sum of about twenty-eight thousand Ticals some other foreign currencies and cash books to Col. Fenny, Chief of the Field Security Service and Colonel Seodutt Singh of the British Indian Army. Alongwith this cash, the entire equipment and furniture of all IIL offices were handed over to them.

Shortly after this, twenty-one Indians, including the writer, were arrested and taken to Santiban (The CID headquarters of the Thai Police." Three were released from Santiban after investigation. After being detained there for two months, the group was taken to Bangkhen Central Jail (nearly twenty miles off Bangkok) and detained there for a further period of two months. From here another three were released. The rest including the writer, were transferred to Singapore Jail and detained there for two months; During this period no trial was held, though statements were taken from the arrested persons while they were in Santiban. It is recallable here that on the eve of being transferred to Singapore when the batch, including the writer of this note, was waiting for embarkation in ship in port, Dr. M.S. Anney, who at that time reached Bangkok as the representative of the Government of India at the South-East Asian traty talks held at Singapore, went to port to see the batch and a brief talk with it. In the course of his talks, Dr. Anngy expressed his sorrow at the arrest of the group but regretted the fact that under the circumstances he could not help the batch in any way.

After being transferred to Singapore jail, each man was kept in a separate cell which was barely spacious to move about.



133

No facilities for reading or taking any physical exercise were given. Out of twenty-four hours, only two hours were allowed for taking bath and food, which was the only time when the arrested persons could see and talk to one another. The food given was the worst of its kind and it naturally affected the health of all very badly. It is strange that though no formal charge was brought against of these men and no trial held, the arrested Indians, including the writer, were treated as ordinary convicts. During this time, Mr. S.K. Chettur, the then agent in Singapore of the Government of India, went two or three times to see the arrested persons in Singapore and Dr. H.N. Kuzru also visited them once. After the lapse of nearly one month, the jail authorities permitted the arrested persons to read the books which they had taken with them at the time of transfer to Singapore.

After two months, a few were sent to India and released there while the rest, including the writer, were sent to Bangkok where they were set free. This turn of affairs came suddenly only two days before the visit of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Singapore. In our opinion, this step was taken by the British authorities in Singapore to prevent the arrested persons from meeting Pandit Nehru:

It goes to the credit of Indians in Thailand, that amongst all the individual donations made by Indians in South-east Asia to the freedom movement under the leadership Netaji, that of Shri Jagat Ram Pawa, a noted merchant in Bangkok and partner of Messrs. Jagatram Chunilal, was the biggest. The amount was about twenty-four lacs of ticals. When interrogated by the British authorities on this donation, Shri Jagatram Pawa characteristically replied that it was the magnificent personality, leadership and patriotism of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose which inspired every Indian, including him, to make every possible donation to the freedom movement for the motherland. He further added that if his interrogators were in his position they would also act in the manner. (RAGHU NATH SHARMA)

*Raghu Nath Sharma*  
28-4-1954  
Bangkok. (THAILAND)



1154

## NETAJI AS I SAW HIM

(By Raghunath Sharma)

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Since the time I first saw Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Singapore and upto the last moment when I saw him off to Saigon on his last fateful journey, I had always perceived his inherent leadership, magnetic personality, boundless patriotism, untiring zeal for work and greatness of the mind. All these traits in him came to the fullest manifestation during the years when he moulded millions of Indians in South-East Asia into a single and solid bloc to fight for the motherland's freedom.

One of Mahatma Gandhi's foremost desires was Hindu-Moslem unity which could form the very foundation of the Free Indias we saw its implementation in South-East Asia under Netaji's leadership. It will go to the eternal credit of Netaji that he not only preached religious and communal harmony to the Indians in South-east Asia but also fully implemented it with the result that Indians in this region ceased to think of themselves on any basis other than that of their motherland - India.

After creating new men of the Indians in South-East Asia, Netaji proceeded with the gigantic task of organizing them into a vital force which could join hands with the independence struggle conducted by the Indian National Congress within India. In this task he revealed his deep knowledge of human psychology in a masterly manner. With Himalayan patience he personally attended to the minutest affairs relating to the Indians in S-E Asia, which is almost unparalleled in modern history.

Being a born leader of men, he pursued from the very beginning the most correct method of uniting Indians, scattered over the vast region from Japan to Burma by giving them one national salutation "Jai Hind" and one National Song, the Hindi version of Tagore's "Jana Gana Mana". It is no small glory to the Indians in this part of this world that the Government of Free India has adopted both these things as integral parts of national life.



135

It was for Netaji to make the Indian womenfolk in South-East Asia fully conscious of their latent power and of the important part they could play in the fight for India's liberation. By placing the ennobling example of the Rani of Jhansi, the heroic daughter of Mother India, before the Indian women in South-east Asia, he wielded almost a magic wand, which raised every Indian mother, daughter and sister to the highest level of selflessness and patriotism. Since the formation of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment in South-Asia upto the time of its demobilization, there was not a single instance of any such action which could disgrace the fair name of Mother India. This could be possible only because Netaji himself was far above any narrowness and because by his actions and utterances he became the idol of millions of Indian men and women in South-East Asia. The writer remembers with pride the answer Netaji gave to some one who had asked him why he was marching all the way from Burma to Bangkok with the Rani of Jhansi girls. Netaji said: "The father of one daughter has so many worries and responsibility. How can I cease worrying when I have thousands of daughters to look after:" The writer further heard Netaji telling the INA troops at a meeting that after entering Indian soil, their first and the foremost duty would be to guard the honour of Indian women. At that open meeting he told the INA troops that if by any chance even a few Japanese military officers would enter Indian soil and become indecent to Indian women, the Indian troops would shoot them dead on the spot. And Netaji gave this directive right in front of a large number of Japanese military personnel, who were present at that meeting.

Netaji's mental composure was uncommon and contagious. At the height of success of the INA on the Indo-Burma border, when the Indian National Flag was hoisted on Manipur soil and Netaji made all arrangements to move the Azad Hind Government Headquarters there, he was as calm and composed as when the reverse came and the Indian National Army had to withdraw from the Indo-Burma border.



Even on his last night in Bangkok when he started on his last  
fateful journey, he remained a picture of tranquility and dignity.

Nearly a decade after Netaji's dramatic disappearance, whenever I remember this great son of Mother India, the following Shloka in Sanskrit comes into my mind:

"Sampattau cha Vipattau Cha Mahatamek Roopata  
Udayae Savita Rakta Raktachast Samaye Thatha."

JAI HIND.

~~Reg L. Smith & Co~~